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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq, Yemen Discuss Barring Iranian Ships

JN1806201790 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 18 Jun 90 pp 1, 18

[By Shakir al-Jawhari]

[Excerpts] Closing of Bab el Mandeb for closing off the Strait of Hormuz.

This was one of the points discussed during the important talks held by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Sanaa with Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. [passage omitted]

The AL-SIYASAH sources say that the Iraqi president discussed with the Yemeni president the possibility of closing Bab el Mandeb to Iranian military navigation in response to the Iranian decision to close off the Strait of Hormuz to Iraqi military navigation if Tehran does not retreat from the decision.

The closure of Bab el Mandeb will prevent new Iranian naval units, including submarines that Rear Admiral Shamkhani [commander of the Iranian Navy] has said will be used to bar Iraqi military navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the open seas. [passage omitted]

The AL-SIYASAH sources believe that if they are prevented from entering Iraqi territorial waters through the Strait of Hormuz, the Iraqi naval units will be stationed in Yemeni naval bases and will, together with the Yemeni naval units, prevent Iranian navigation. The majority of Iranian oil exports, as well as the majority of Iranian weapon imports, pass through Bab el Mandeb, while the majority of Iraq's oil exports are transported through pipelines passing through Turkish and Saudi territory. [passage omitted]

Iraq, Jordan Raise Degree of Military Readiness

JN1806160990 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Jun 90 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] Capitals, AL-BAYAN Correspondents, Agencies—Iraq and Jordan yesterday raised the degree of their forces' military readiness and adopted security and military measures to confront any possible Israeli aggression, after Israeli military concentrations had been monitored on the borders with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Tension in the region rose as if war were imminent. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held the United States responsible for what he termed the escalating tone of war in the region as a result of American insinuations to the Arab world that U.S.-Israeli relations were in danger. [passage omitted]

Iraqi military sources in Baghdad told AL-BAYAN yesterday: The Iraqi and Jordanian forces have adopted security and military measures as well as all necessary precautions to confront any possible Israeli aggression against Jordanian or Iraqi territory.

The sources added that the security forces guarding the main centers and sensitive government departments in Baghdad and Amman have been replaced by military forces and that orders had been issued to the Armed Forces in both countries to be ready to confront any Israeli aggression, especially after recent threats against Arab countries by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The sources said the security forces stationed on the border with Israel had been replaced by armored troops from the Jordanian Army. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Says U.S. Undermines Peace Efforts

LD1806190190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq As'ad Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has declared the United States bears responsibility for the collapse of the peace efforts in the Middle East. In a press statement, brother Abu-Lutf said Washington was the direct cause for the wrecking of the peace efforts in the Middle East and that Israel did not want peace, but wanted to launch another war against the Arabs. Brother Abu-Lutf added that Israel and the United States were interpreting the Palestinian flexibility as a weakness in the Palestinian stance. He then called on the Arab states to adopt a firm stand. Brother Abu-Lutf also stressed the PLO support for all constructive, political peace initiatives which would help us recover our rights to self-determination and establishment of our independent state. He said in this respect: We will build up, at the same time, our own national and pan-Arab capabilities because justice needs material and political support, and we will continue to resist the Israeli occupation through every means, including the armed struggle.

U.S. Requests Investigation of Sea Operation

PM1906090490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Breaking Off Dialogue Would Torpedo Washington's Efforts; Complications Could Cause Its Suspension"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources have ruled out that the United States would decide to break off the dialogue with the PLO, but have not ruled out the possibility of the dialogue being suspended for some time.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that breaking off the dialogue would in practice mean torpedoing all the efforts made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, whose overview of a solution is based on a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Such a dialogue would not be possible in an atmosphere of estrangement between Washington and the PLO.

The sources believe that Baker's criticisms of Israel's position on peace are designed in part to contain the attack launched by the the Hebraic state's supporters to force President George Bush's administration to break off the dialogue with the PLO.

The sources said that Washington's latest request to the PLO is to form a committee to investigate the sea-borne operation carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front under Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] and then submit its report to the [Palestine] National Council.

The sources believe the problem lies not in forming an investigation committee, but in setting a precedent, in the sense that such a request would be made whenever an operation takes place, thus in practice linking the dialogue to operations, that is, linking its continuation to their cessation.

The sources said that the way these requests are worded and their open presentation complicate current discussions on them.

The sources pointed out that the Israeli war government could turn in the coming months to a series of escalatory operations in the form of assassinations or strikes on PLO headquarters in this or that state, with the possibility of increasing pressure on Jordan by attacking Palestinian targets there.

The sources revealed that no new development has occurred since the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, whose resolutions are supposed to form a basis for a large-scale move designed to strengthen pan-Arab security in the face of the dangers surrounding it. However, the sources cited a positive development in the absence of a hard-line Syrian stance on the summit boycotted by Damascus. Perhaps this is attributable to the nature of the summit's resolution on the situation in Lebanon.

The sources spoke about the continuation of the dialogue between the PLO and Damascus via several channels, but ruled out exciting or rapid developments, pointing out that conditions in the region necessitate the turning of a new page, not only between the PLO and Damascus, but also between the Damascus and Baghdad.

The sources believe that clouds are gathering over the region and that the question now is how Washington will tackle this problem, especially since any decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO would necessarily lead to a further escalation of positions.

The sources emphasized that influential Arab quarters are making efforts to prevent the closure of the door of the dialogue between Washington and the PLO, since it is necessary to proceed from that dialogue instead of returning to square one.

Commentary Says U.S., Israel Prepare for War

JN1706203990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1801 GMT 17 Jun 90

["A Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "Washington's Allegations and Shamir Government's War"]

[Text] Dear brothers: Secretary of State Baker has said nothing except a single phrase stating that he is waiting for a response from the Israeli Government on his plan for Middle East peace, a plan crippled because of the enemy entity's political paralysis and failure to form a government. The Israeli Government—or the Israeli war cabinet—has been formed. The settlement portfolio was given to terrorist Sharon; the portfolio of war, aggression, and expansion was granted to Moshe Arens; and the portfolio of an isolationist foreign policy was given to David Levi. Shamir is the boss of all these people. In spite of all this, Baker is waiting for a telephone call to fix dates to meet and settle the Middle East conflict, and from whom? From this Israeli government. What kind of stupidity is this? And what misrepresentation of facts is this? The U.S. secretary of state is waiting for an Israeli response on his plan. Not just any response; he lays down the condition that this response has to be a positive one. This demand is being made at a time when the new Shamir government is making preparations, getting ready, and promoting a climate for an all-out, sweeping, and preemptive war on all levels.

Shamir is currently complaining to the United States about the growing strength of the Arabs. He is urging the United States to subdue these Arabs. He is saying: If Washington fails to play this role, which was the fate of a U.S. attempt in this regard at the Baghdad summit, then Israel will have no choice but to take the matter into its own hands and seize the initiative to break this growing Arab might in a grinding war. This is exactly what Shamir and his government are saying. This does not run [word indistinct] the U.S. policy in the region, despite the fact that Washington seeks to portray itself as an advocate of peace and settlement, envisaging the attainment of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

All of Washington's allegations are [word indistinct]. They are all meant to throw dust in the eyes of the region. The essence of the overall situation is that Washington and Tel Aviv are making preparations for a new war. However, this war will be more cruel, more bitter, more difficult, and more costly than previous wars. Are the Arabs getting ready for this? Are they acting on the basis of these calculations?

Khalaf Reiterates Israeli 'Assassination Plan'

JN1706102190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0912 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, 17 Jun (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has announced that the Palestinian leadership has definite information on the existence of an Israeli plan to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders. He said that this plan is within the program of the new Israeli Government and that it will be implemented within the next few months. Therefore, he added, the Palestinian leadership has taken precautionary security measures in light of the lessons drawn from the crime of assassinating Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir. Regarding the possibility of a new Israeli military adventure, Salah Khalaf said in a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ that the first priority of the new Israeli Government is to strike at and liquidate the intifadah, and then, it will carry out military strikes against Libya and Jordan, and assassinate Palestinian leaders.

With regard to the threat to sever the American-PLO dialogue, Khalaf said that the PLO has chosen—in its political move—flexibility and good relations with all countries. The United States knows that we benefited nothing from the dialogue. But, if the dialogue stops we will neither beg for it nor bow to America's pressures.

Salah Khalaf affirmed the need to develop and escalate armed struggle outside the area of intifadah activities. He said that as a result of the impasse created by America and Israel in the peace settlement, anything can be expected. This is because our people cannot endure more than this under the new Israeli Government. This government will be responsible for many brutal massacres that will be committed against the Palestinians.

Abu-Iyad said that the PLO Central Council will convene at the beginning of the first week of October to objectively assess the current stage and to discuss the Israeli situation and the American position.

Concluding his statement, Salah Khalaf called for restoring Syrian-Iraqi relations as soon as possible and for preparing an atmosphere of reconciliation between Iraq and Iran because this is the path toward forming something similar to the eastern front as one of the responses to Israeli extremism.

Group Condemns PLO Statement on Civilians

JN1606184790 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The Central Information Department of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine From Jerusalem [name as heard] issued an official statement distributed in Amman yesterday. In it, the front denounces the statement by the PLO's official spokesman condemning the Palestinian fedayeen operations against civilian Zionist settlers.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine sees the official PLO spokesman's statement as a kind of submission, capitulation, national isolation, and disgraceful militant downfall. The front also sees the statement as acclaiming and blessing American policy, which is hostile to our Palestinian people's rights and to our Arab and Islamic nation.

The front says that the contents of the official PLO spokesman's statement voids the PLO from national substance and militant essence in anticipation of its toppling and elimination as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The front also notes the eagerness of the defeatist and opportunistic leaders of the PLO to pursue the dialogue of the deaf with the imperialist and Zionized United States.

The statement says that, because the front is eager to preserve the purity of the PLO and is concerned not to let it fall into the traps of the extensive U.S.-Zionist conspiracy, it calls for the immediate retraction of this statement and the return to a sound PLO course so that our people may be able to return to their homeland to establish their independent state on all their sacred soil and exercise their right to self-determination.

Palestinian Businessmen Set Up Financial Group

LD1806204990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The head of PLO Economic Affairs and Planning has announced that Palestinian businessmen in various part of the world have decided to set up a financial institution in charge of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people. In a press statement made today, he said that the goal behind the establishment of this institution was to confront the war launched by the occupation authorities with a view to reducing the Palestinian people to extreme hunger, in addition to increasing the confiscation of their lands, imposing restrictions on the use of water, obstructing the export of Palestinian produce, and closing down the agricultural and productive enterprises.

Algeria

Bendjedid Holds Talks With Niger President

LD1806152390 Algiers APS in English 1406 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jun (APS)—Algerian-Niger political talks were held Monday here between Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Ali Saibou. These talks, which took up bilateral relations and the latest developments on the African and international scene, were held on the occasion of stopover made by President Saibou in Algiers International Airport.

Bendjedid Meets With Burkinabe President

LD1806223290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid and Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore tonight held a second round of talks in the presence of the members of the two countries' delegations. These talks centered on ways to bolster cooperation between the two countries, and on African and international issues. The Burkinabe leader arrived in Algeria earlier today. He is due to head for Paris tomorrow to attend the Franco-African summit.

FIS Supports Bendjedid, Ties With France

LD1506145290 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] says it is prepared for cohabitation in a government headed by Chadli Bendjedid in the event that it wins a majority in the National Assembly—FIS is calling for the dissolution of the National Assembly. Furthermore, its president asserts that he wants to maintain excellent relations with France. Three days after his victory in the local elections, he says he is ready to accept an invitation from Paris and even to send representatives of his party to French territory, if France wishes this.

Breakdown of Election Results Given by Region

LD1606130090 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The final results of the elections for the renewal of popular municipal and provincial councils have shown the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], followed by the National Liberation Front [FLN], independent candidates, and the Rally for Culture and Democracy party.

Concerning the popular municipal elections, the FIS has won 853 municipalities, distributed as follows: In the provinces of Blida, Algiers, Djidjel, Ghelizene, and Constantine, the percentage was 100 percent in favour of the FIS; thus it has won all the popular municipal seats in the 29 municipalities of Blida Province, the 33 munipalities of Algiers the capital, the 28 municipalities of Djidjel, the 12 municipalities of Constantine, and the 38 municipalities of Ghelizene.

The FIS also won the majority of seats in the provinces of Chelef, Oum el Bawaki, Batna, Bouira, Tlemcen, Setif, Saida, Skikda, Sidi Bel Abbes, Annaba, Medea, Mostaganem, Msila, Mascara, Oran, Tismisilt, Mila, Ain Defla and Ain Timouchent.

As for the FLN, it has won 100 percent of seats in Ilize Province, and had a majority of seats in the provinces of Adrar, Laghouat, Biskra, Bechar, Tamanghasset, Tebessa, Tiaret, Djelfa, Guelma, Ouergla, El Bayadh, Bordj Bouariridj, Taref, el Oued, Khenchela, Souk Ahras, Ennaama, and Ghardaya.

The independent candidates won 106 municipalities in all the provinces of the country, except 16 provinces where the FIS and the FLN dominate.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy party won 87 municipalities distributed as follows: 44 municipalities in Tizi Ouzou Province, 31 municipalities in Bedjea Province, six municipalities in Bouira Province, four municipalities in Setif Province, one municipality in Batna Province, and one municipality in Bordj Bouariridj Province.

Concerning the popular provincial assemblies, the FIS won 32 provincial councils, the FLN won 14 provincial assemblies, the FIS won 32 provincial councils, the FLN won 14 provincial councils, while the Rally for Culture and Democracy party won the popular provincial council of Tizi Ouzou, and independent candidates won the popular provincial council of Tindouf.

Human Rights League Satisfied With Elections

LD1706013590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Regarding the elections, the Algerian Human Rights League has released a statement which says that the league notes with satisfaction the Algerian people's success in the first test of the democratic process based on freedom of thought and expression and political pluralism. In its statement, the league noted the healthy political rivalry which prevailed at the elections, despite some incidents of confrontation and intimidation reported by the press. The league said that the elections have proved again that our people exercised their repossessed political freedom calmly and wisely by being fully aware of the scope of their historic responsibilities.

As for the Algerian Movement for Renewal, it views the defeat of the ruling party, the FLN [National Liberation Front], in the local elections as an opportunity for all Algerians to reaffirm their will to achieve fundamental changes and for citizens to unite and work hand in hand to get Algeria out of the situation it is in.

Regrets 'Antidemocratic Practices'

LD1706095990 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] In Algeria, the National League for Human Rights regrets—I quote—the anti-democratic practices that revealed the abdication of responsibilities on the part of the administration during the local elections of 12 June.

The Human Rights League denounces the lack of efficiency of the administration in the face of multiple irregularities that marked these elections. The league notes, however, that these irregularities were not likely to distort significantly the results at national level.

I remind you that the Islamic Salvation Front emerged a big winner in these elections. On the other hand, 14 militants of the National Liberation Front have been arrested, precisely for having obstructed the polling process in the south of the country.

Islamic Call League Pleased With Elections

LD1706015190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Islamic Call League [Rabitat al-Da'wa al-Islamiyyah] has released a statement in which it congratulates the Algerian people on their Islamic choice and their cultural and political maturity, proving to the doubtful that they are capable of exercising the historic responsibility, thus proving wrong those who have exercised guardianship over them over decades under the pretext of their [the Algerian people's] political inadequacy. [passage omitted]

APS Summarizes Local Election Results

LD1706111190 Algiers APS in English 1026 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 17/6/90 (APS)—The victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the June 12 local and regional elections is incontestable. The FIS has won the majority in 853 communes out of a total 1939 communes, namely 55.42 percent. The FIS won the majority in 32 Wilayas (provinces) out of a total 48.

However, one should reconsider this victory by analyzing the results as they have been given by the minister of interior. First of all, one must consider the participation rate in these first elections of Algeria which has committed itself to build a democracy based on human freedoms and multipartyism. The total number of electors in Algeria reached 12,841,769 whereas the people who actually voted were only 8,366,760, only a participation rate of 65.15 percent. So 4,475,009 people did not vote. This is a very important figure as it represents no less than 34.85 per cent of the electorate.

The FIS has won the majority in 55.42 percent of communes. This represents 4,737,875 votes to the FIS. But what the figures given by the minister of interior do not mention and which are necessary in order to give an account with the maximum of objectivity of the reality of the new majority, are the repartition of seats in relation with the votes. As, if the FIS has the majority in 853 communes and 32 regional councils, one must not forget that the FIS is not alone and that there are other parties or independent candidates which won seats, even [though] they came in second or third position.

The FIS has the majority, this is true, but it must accomodate with the new laws of the communes and the regional councils and the new electoral law with the minority lists which chaired the seats in the prorata of votes beyond [figure indistinct] percent of the local or regional electorate.

Moreover, it is worth noting that where the FIS reached the majority, the participation rate did not reach the national rate of participation or merely reached it.

Comparatively, where the other parties or the independent lists reached the majority, the participation rate was much higher. Another remark concerns the abstentions. Where the Gathering for Democracy and Culture (RCD) reached the majority, the participation rate were among the lowest in the country with 22.82 percent in Tizi Ouzou (100 kms east of Algiers) or 27.08 percent in Bejaia (230 kms east of Algiers). Abstentions in these regions are mainly due to the call for boycott of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) of Ait Ahmed.

FFS Calls FIS Election Success 'Relative'

LD1706140190 Algiers APS in English 1331 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 17 June (APS)—The Front of Socialist Forces (FFS) said in a statement made by its leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, that the electoral success of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] is relative and denied the responsibility of the FFS in this result. "The success of the FIS has nothing to frightening or phantasmagoric," the FFS declared. This success is relative. The rate of 55 per cent the FIS has reached is among the number of people who actually voted but not all the people who were in the voters' lists. Thus its true results is between 2[illegible] and 30 percent of the electorate, given the call for abstention which was followed by nearly half of the population.

"In addition, most of the votes won by the FIS result not only of its program but as a sanction against the FLN [National Liberation Front] or the parties which are sponsored or supported by it.

"The democrats of this country must 'calmly' draw the lessons from this result and unite in order to help the Algerian people recover their rights", the statement of the FFS concluded.

Court Rejects People's Party Legalization

LD1606215390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Regarding the question of legalizing the Algerian People's Party, we have been informed that the administrative chamber of the Supreme Judicial Council today confirmed its rejection of the legalization of the Algerian People's Party. It based its rejection on the party's nonfulfillment of the conditions stipulated in the law pertaining to societies of political nature.

Recognizes Pro-Libyan Party

NC1706202990 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, June 17 (AFP)—The pro-Libyan Movement of Algeri Revolutionary Committees (MCRA) advocating al-Qadhdhafi-style "grass-roots democracy" has won official recognition here in defiance of interior ministry opposition. MCRA leader Mabrouk Nouis said Saturday [16 June] the Supreme Court had rejected a ruling by the ministry that the party violated legislation on political parties. The MCRA, whose "people's power" doctrine is based on the "Little Green Book" of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, becomes the 26th party to be legalised since Algeria switched to a multi-party system last July.

Among other things, the MCRA is anti-French and wants to make English the second language after Arabic in Algeria. It opposes compensating former French settlers who lost their property at independence in 1962 and says France should pay back Algerians for the "ravages and misery" caused by 132 years of colonial rule.

In another development, the Supreme Court Saturday [16 June] turned down an appeal lodged by the PPA [Algerian People's Party] party after its application for legal status was turned down. The PPA was founded in 1937 by Algeria's first nationalist leader Messali Hadj.

Rejecting the party's application in November, the interior ministry invoking a rule disqualifying any party which "behaved in a manner contrary to the revolution (the war of independence)". The ruling National Liberation Front alleges Messali Hadj was a "collaborator" during the war for independence.

FLN Issues Statement on Election Results

LD1806114790 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jun (APS)—The Political Bureau of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party examined conditions in which were held the June 12 elections, their results and their implications about the decisions and general political decisions and the measures they requires in the field of general organization of the party. The Political Bureau, after a first assessment of these elections, has reached the following observations and conclusions:

1) The general atmosphere in which these elections were held was not exempt from verbal extremism, excesses and behaviours that were contrary to the freedom of choice of citizens. In addition these elections did not take place without errors or insufficiencies. But this must not decrease the experience of this democratic experience, hide its political significance in general.

2) The FLN party, in spite of the great militant and competent resources it has, in spite of the rich human capital, has not managed to adapt in an efficient way in a number of fields to the requirements of the political practice in favour of pluralism. This has limited its efficiency in these local and regional elections. The Political Bureau considers that the renovation of the party as well as its human component constitute one of the major requirements of the future.

3) The FLN is required, because of its particular position to draw all the necessary lessons from this experience, the political parties and associations either those which took part in these elections or not must make such an analysis. More than that, every citizen must think about the responsibility the democratic practice implies individually and collectively.

4) The global political significance of these elections shows the attachment of the Algerian people to their national, religious, political and cultural identity, their deep aspirations to progress, to the changing of the situation and the elimination of the negative aspects created by the evolution of society and the economic crisis.

5) The FLN will remain deeply attached to the fact that Islam is a factor of unity, tolerance and fraternity between Algerians as it has been during our long history and mainly during the glorious revolution of November, and rejects any tendency to make Islam come back to the era of charlatanism and myths and make of it an instrument of demagogy and political opportunism.

6) The FLN considers that the continuation of the implementation of political reforms is in conformity with the general aspiration of the Algerian people. However, concerning the state concerns, it would erroneous to neglect the economic reforms. The general situation prevailing in the country requires a balance and complementarity in the materialization of political and economic reforms.

7) The FLN considers that it is necessary—in order to draw the lessons from these elections at the national scale and decide on the practical measures they require—to undertake large consultations between officials in political parties and circles of opinion in the country in order to define the necessary conditions for the reinforcement of the democratic process.

8) The communal and regional councils, because of their importance as basic structures of the state and as centers of decisions for the taking in charge of problems of

citizens, must, in spite of their pluralist human component assure a minimum of cohesion in order to guarantee success and efficiency to their actions.

The representatives of the FLN within these assemblies are requested to contribute in gathering these conditions in order to materialize the mission of the FLN as an instrument of dialogue and gathering between all Algerians.

Government Council Discusses Election Results

LD1906021390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The Council of Government met today under the chairmanship of Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, the head of government, to analyze the results of the 12 June local elections in light of the directives by Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, during the Council of Ministers meeting on 13 June.

With regard to the implementation of the political, economic, and social reforms, the Council of Government pointed out that the legislative action to entrench democracy had been speeded up since the National People's Assembly ratified the government program. Thus, the provisions stipulated by the constitution are already being put in place and are being liberated from the methods of the past in the domain of political pluralism, the guaranteeing of individual and collective freedoms, and in the economic, financial, commercial, and agricultural fields, as well as in the organization of social relations trade union freedom, freedom of information, and regional decentralization.

The Council of Government also drew up a timetable for implementing its program of reforms in education, health, real estate, taxes, and trade, which are still being discussed. It took into account the need to speed up the entrenchment of the constitutional reforms.

The Council of Government believes more than ever that guaranteeing the application of the reforms in an effective and orderly manner aims at solving the economic, social, and educational problems the country is currently facing. This undoubtedly depends on the determination to continue the purge in the management of economic, educational, and social affairs at a steady pace and to eliminate the (?attitudes) and practices which generate arbitrariness in the use of power and authority and the confiscation of resources [as heard]. The Council added in this respect that it was determined to put an end to this within the framework of the law. It calls for the mobilization of the workers and cadres who are convinced of the need to work for the entrenchment of the reforms at all levels of responsibility. It also urges all citizens and social, cultural, and political associations which apreciate the deep changes society is going through and hopes for the future to embark on a dialogue with a view to expanding the democratic process and defending the country's vital interests.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Comments on Shamir Overture

LD1806135590 Rabat MAP in English 1331 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 18 (MAP)—The call launched by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in the context of an Egyptian-Israeli summit received no favourable echo from official milieus here.

An official from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told a correspondent of the Tunisian News Agency (TAP) in Cairo that Egypt expects "concrete actions towards peace and establishment of dialogue in Cairo with Palestinians and not mere messages conveying good intentions."

Shamir had sent a message to President Mubarak in which he proposed a meeting to examine bilateral relations, it was announced Friday [15 June] in Cairo.

Nation To Receive Saudi Agricultural Loans

JN1506101690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jun 90 p 6

[Text] The Saudi Development Fund has agreed to grant Egypt 365 [as published] million Saudi riyals in loans with easy terms to finance three projects. The first project is the establishment of a plant for the production of sugar from sugar beets, and it will be allocated 210 million riyals. The second project will be to supply the Sinai with water for the irrigation of 450 [as published] feddans; this project will receive 95 million riyals. The third project, to be allocated 65 million riyals, is an overland route between Cairo and Asyut.

Mauritanian Industry Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1706204790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—A Mauritanian delegation led by Mines and Industry Minister Boulah Ould Wagaye arrived in Cairo this evening on a five-day visit to Egypt to attend the periodical two-day meeting of the General Assembly of the Arab Industrial Development Organization, which will begin on Wednesday.

In an arrival statement, the Mauritanian minister said that he and Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab will discuss aspects of industrial cooperation between the two countries.

He described the Mauritanian-Egyptian relations as profound and strong.

Meanwhile, Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who received the Mauritanian minister upon his arrival, stated that Egypt and Mauritania have special industrial ties and that Mauritania has the largest iron ore deposits that are necessary for the steel industries.

The Egyptian minister indicated that Egypt will support Mauritania in building a project for the production of 9 million tons of iron.

Tunisian Chamber Speaker Arrives 17 Jun

NC1806060390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Salah Bali, speaker of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Cairo this evening. In an arrival statement, he said he has brought a message for President Husni Mubarak from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunisian chamber of deputies speaker said that his five-day visit to Cairo is within the framework of strengthening the good and distinguished relations between Egypt and Tunisia and to promote cooperation between the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies and the Egyptian People's Assembly.

Salah Bali is scheduled to meet tomorrow with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, who received him upon his arrival. On Tuesday, Bali will also meet with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with Prime Ministesr Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on Wednesday.

Received by Mubarak

NC1906105790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Salaheddin Bali, speaker of the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, at the presidential office this morning. The Tunisian speaker is leading a delegation of five Tunisian deputies on a visit to Cairo. The meeting was attended by Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah.

In a statement after the meeting, the Tunisian speaker said he had conveyed greetings to President Mubarak from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and added that President Mubarak had asked him to convey greetings to the Tunisian president. He added that several topics had been discussed during the meeting, which he described as excellent.

U.S. Told of Conditions for Tripartite Meeting

JN1406133190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Mustafah Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] I have learned from informed Egyptian sources that Egypt has told the U.S. Administration that it would not participate in the tripartite meeting to be held in Washington unless a number of important conditions were met. These conditions are:

1. The current Israeli Government has to prove its serious, sincere intentions to establish peace in accordance with agreed-upon international bases.
2. The Shamir plan for elections should not constitute the pole star of the Israeli Government's political activity. Moreover, if Israel insists on rejecting the Baker plan, Egypt would be willing to discuss new ideas on elections during the tripartite meeting.
3. The wave of hostile Israeli statements should come to a halt in order to maintain the general atmosphere of the peace process in the region.
4. The Israeli Government should send a detailed memorandum to Egypt concerning the bases of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, as conceived by the new government, provided that this memorandum be an initial talking point, subject to change and amendment during the tripartite meeting in Washington.
5. The Israeli wave of violence against Palestinians in the occupied territories should come to a halt.

I have also learned that in this contact, Egypt renewed its warning about the dangers of halting the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, pointing out that the mechanism of the dialogue is one of the most important tools of U.S. policy to bring the Arabs and Israel together, and that halting this dialogue will negatively affect the United States' role in the region.

Editorial Views Next Step in U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN1306180590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Next U.S. Step"]

[Text] Arabs are holding numerous contacts with various parties to explain the dangers in the growing tension in the Middle East. They are attempting to effect the required equilibrium in dealing with the parties of the conflict, particularly the PLO. They are pinpointing the root cause of the current deterioration and saying that it lies in Israel's tyrannical practices and the increasing inclination toward further intransigence and extremism. This is bound to elicit negative reactions from the Palestinians whose lands are under the yoke of occupation. What is exacerbating the situation is that the occupiers are bringing in thousands of immigrants and building settlements for them in the occupied territories in a bid to change demographic features and ancient history.

[Former U.S.] Senator Percy, head of a peace mission, used unequivocal terms to say that the circumstances under which Palestinians of the occupied territories are living are worse than those of pets in Western hospitals. Percy added that his visit to the occupied territories depressed and frustrated him. He held Shamir responsible for these inhumane acts.

Percy informed Israeli officials of a solution to this situation. It can be summed up in the need to espouse the two-state solution principle—to establish a Palestinian state in the occupied territories and to negotiate with the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

This solution formula to which the U.S. senator subscribes is the one contained in the Palestinian peace initiative, endorsed by Arab states, and approved by Egypt as a basis for its peace strategy. News reports from Washington say that Bush, who announced that he is holding important contacts with President Husni Mubarak and that he is determined to continue efforts to achieve peace, is currently reassessing the U.S. position and making preparations for announcing the next step after ascertaining that the new Israeli Government is the worst and most extreme. We hope that this step will be a step forward toward supporting the positions of Dole and Percy and also those previously announced by Baker and Bush himself. It is also hoped that this step will not torpedo the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Furthermore, we hope that this step will pave the way for launching an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, considering that this is the natural prelude to advancing the peace process.

Paper on U.S.-Soviet Agreement on Middle East

NC1406141390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2011 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Middle East remains remote. Such an agreement depends on many conditions, the paper says, the most important of which is opening the doors for the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

In a commentary in tomorrow's issue, AL-AHRAM says: Despite the fact that several economic agreements were concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States during the Washington summit, the implementation of these agreements depends on their approval by the U.S. Congress which, like the U.S. Government, is looking for a complete relaxation of the situation vis-a-vis opening the doors for Jewish emigration to Israel.

The paper says that the issue of the economic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States has not yet been settled because it depends on the question of granting permission for emigration. This in turn depends on the provision of guarantees by Israel, and Israel does not want to give any guarantees because it wants the settlement of the Jewish immigrants to be absolute and to take place anywhere the immigrants choose.

In conclusion, the paper calls on the Arabs to mobilize their own resources to improve economic conditions in the Soviet Union. This would shift some positions in the interests of the Arabs, which would be better than behaving like onlookers and adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Commentary Views Exchanges With Washington

NC0906160490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Egypt Holds Continued Exchanges With Washington To Save the Peace Process From Collapse"]

[Text] Many parties are closely linked with the Middle East issue and have a definite duty to further peace efforts in order to achieve a just and comprehensive political settlement in the region—a settlement that safeguards the legitimate rights of all nations in the Arab region. It remains true, however, that Egypt and the United States bear a special responsibility for resolving the Middle East problem and boosting peace efforts. This is so because of their deep involvement in the region's chronic problems and because of the role they can play in convincing the major parties to the conflict, the PLO and Israel, to sit together at the negotiating table and to seek a just solution to the Palestinian issue on the basis of the land for peace principle and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In addition, Egypt has special leverage on the Arab scene and is continuously consulting with PLO leaders. Washington is a major player in the peace process and has leverage that it can use to pressure Israel and to persuade it to meet the PLO halfway.

This rather lengthy introduction was meant to shed light on the importance of intensive political and diplomatic contacts between Egypt and the United States on all levels. The most recent of these exchanges was a telephone conversation yesterday [8 June] between Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and George Bush. The two leaders discussed U.S.-Palestinian ties and current developments in the Arab world in general.

We believe that the continued consultations between Cairo and Washington aim at maintaining the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and saving the peace efforts from collapse. Israel has been trying to undermine the peace efforts in order to achieve its expansionist goals at the expense of the Palestinian people. Recent international developments, particularly in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, helped Israel in this respect.

Current Egyptian-U.S. consultations acquire particular significance in the light of the following considerations:

First, the consultations are taking place as Israel and the pro-Israeli lobby in the U.S. congress are exerting considerable pressures on the Bush administration to terminate the dialogue with the PLO, using as ammunition the recent sea-borne operation against Tel Aviv's shores. Israel is using the operation as a pretext to obstruct the peace process, distort the Palestinian position, and distract the world from the massacres it perpetrates daily against the revolutionaries of the Palestinian intifadah. More importantly, Israel seeks to divert attention from the emigration of Soviet Jews and their settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

Second, Egyptian-U.S. consultations are taking place in the wake of the Washington summit during which President Mikhail Gorbachev said that he may reconsider the emigration of Soviet Jews if Israel continues to settle them in the Arab occupied territories. EC countries have also denounced the settlement of Soviet Jews in Arab territories. Washington has accordingly been reviewing its Middle East policies.

Third, the Washington-Cairo exchanges come in the wake of the Baghdad summit meeting which left the world in no doubt that the Arabs have opted for just peace but are determined to safeguard Arab national security against any threat to any Arab country—for Arab national security is indivisible.

Fourth, yesterday's telephone conversation between Mubarak and Bush followed the news that Yitzhaq Shamir has succeeded in forming a new government and followed hardline statements in Israel concerning continued Jewish immigration and settlement in the occupied Arab territories. Washington is therefore required to take positive action once more to persuade Shamir to take part seriously in the peace process.

Egypt's efforts have so far been successful in containing the situation and averting undersirable developments. However, Egypt calls on all concerned parties to assume their responsibilities and to act in accordance with the interests of all people of the Arab region.

Libya

Foreign Ministry Statement on Prisoners in Chad

LD1806161890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jun (JANA)—The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement in commenting upon the statement issued by Chadian authorities concerning the release of the drivers of civilian Libyan trucks captured earlier by a Chadian Army unit inside the Sudanese territory:

First: What the Libyan convoy was subjected to was a piratic operation taking place 400 km from the Chadian border and inside Sudanese territory. This obstruction of the route of the convoy between the two neighboring countries, carried out by Chadian authorities, is a blatant aggression toward the sovereignty of other countries. Consequently, these countries maintain their right to defend the sovereignty of their paths of communication and protect their citizens by all means.

Second: The Chadian authorities, should know that their announcement concerning the release of the drivers of the trucks is considered an unfinished job, and that the piracy remains as long as they do not surrender the trucks and their load. The N'djamena authorities have committed a very grave precedent in African relations in the region. The problem is consequently still there, as long as the trucks are not surrendered and compensation is not given to their drivers for the losses incurred. Libya considers this matter extremely serious, and could not set it aside or turn a blind eye to it.

Third: The world knows Driss Debbi, who was commander-in-chief of Habre's forces and one of his most prominent advisers. It also knows the forces which are fighting against the N'djamena government. We wonder: When did Driss Debbi and his forces become an Islamic unit? This matter requires from us the revision of our geographical knowledge, as we wonder when Darfour became Chadian, because we know it is still Sudanese territory.

Fourth: The N'djamena government defined the driver of the trucks captured by way of piracy as prisoners of war, and the seriousness of this definition could harm N'djamena himself.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Soviet Economic Minister

LD1506131190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, who brought him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet president informed the brother leader in this message of the results of his talks with U.S. President Bush. He also acquainted him with the facets of agreement and disagreement between the two of them on many bilateral and important international issues. The message also acquainted the brother leader with the results of the talks between the Soviet president and the prime minister of Canada.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Togolese Envoys

LD1806082290 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Kwaovi Johnson, the Togolese minister of information, and (N'gombeno), the head of the African Lawyers' Association, as envoys of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

The two envoys handed the brother leader of the revolution a written message from President Eyadema.

Mauritania

Commerce Minister Dies of Heart Attack 13 Jun

AB1606115190 Paris AFP in French 1408 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, 14 Jun (AFP)—Mrs. Khadija Mint Ahmed Abderrahmane, the Mauritanian minister of commerce, crafts and tourism, died yesterday evening in Nouakchott following a heart attack, official sources announced today in the Mauritanian capital where a three-day national mourning has been decreed.

Mrs. Khadija Abderrahmane, who was the only woman in the Mauritanian Government, had felt discomfort during yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting in Nouakchott. [passage omitted]

BBC Reports Further Expulsion of Blacks

AB1406221490 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 14 Jun 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It seems that black Mauritanians are still being deported to Senegal more than a year after the authorities began a program of mass expulsion that led to a spate of ethnic violence in Mauritania and Senegal and the two countries were on the verge of war. Officially, deportation ended last summer, but Rokia Oumar of the human rights organization, Africa Watch, has just been to the refugee camp along Senegal's border with Mauritania, and she says refugees are still coming across. On the line, Robin White asked her at what rate the Mauritanians were now coming into Senegal:

[Begin recording] [Oumar] They are coming at a very fast rate along the border area. It is not uncommon for black Mauritanians to arrive at the rate of 60 a week or 40 a week and, sometimes, entire villages are uprooted, in which case you might get 400 to 500 people coming in a week. But every month, there are new arrivals along the River Senegal valley as well as trickles coming into Dakar or into one of the other cities.

[White] Now why do people say that they are still fleeing?

[Oumar] They are fleeing for the same reason that they decided to flee in April 1989, which is that the government is engaged in a concerted campaign to deport as many black Mauritanians as it possibly can, and they are fleeing government killing, they are fleeing the confiscation of their identity cards, they are fleeing because they have been dismissed from their jobs, they are not able to take any money out of their bank accounts, and they are under surveillance, or they are fleeing because they are afraid for their lives.

[White] Why does the Mauritanian Government want them out now?

[Oumar] The government wants them out because the government sees the deportation of black Mauritanians as an opportunity to Arabize Mauritania and to make it an integral part of the Arab world.

[White] And what happens to people when they come across?

[Oumar] Well, they are picked up by the Senegalese authorities and taken to one of the camps along the River Senegal valley. If they are villagers and herders that live just across on the Mauritanian side, they like to live in the camp that is just opposite their own village in Mauritania. They have nothing to do in the camps. There is a great deal of frustration. There are no employment opportunities. Food is scarce. Medical attention is substandard, and there is a great deal of suffering in the camps.

[White] What do they want to do in Senegal? Do they want jobs or land or what do they want?

[Oumar] They want to go back home. They want to go to Mauritania. They are Mauritanians and they regard themselves as having every right to live in Mauritania, and their aim is to go back to Mauritania.

[White] So they have not abandoned hope of going home?

[Oumar] Absolutely not.

[White] But is there any time that they might have to go back home?

[Oumar] Not in the foreseeable future. Not if the international community does not put a price on Mauritania for expelling black Mauritanians now.

[White] Now, you have not been to Mauritania, so might your account not be rather one-sided?

[Oumar] Well, the reason we have not been to Mauritania is due to the fact that the government has consistently refused to allow us to go in. But we have interviewed a very wide range of refugees, both the deportees that arrived in the wave of the fighting last year, as well as the most recent arrivals, people arrived that arrived just a week or 10 days ago. So I do not think reporting is one-sided. I think it is precisely because we have got out the fact that the government is anxious not to let us into Mauritania. [end recording]

President Receives Outgoing Soviet Ambassador

AB1306192390 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The head of state, President Maaouiya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya, today received Leonid Komogorov, Soviet ambassador to Nouakchott, who came to bid him farewell. At this audience, the head of state decorated the ambassador with the Order of Commander of the National Merit. Ambassador Komogorov expressed his joy and thanked the Mauritanian people and Government, who worked for the consolidation of cooperation between the two countries:

[Begin Komogorov recording] I thank the Mauritanian Government and His Excellency the head of state for their interest in the development of relations of cooperation between our two countries. [end recording]

The audience took place in the presence of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Hosni Ould Didi; Dr. [name indistinct], the head of state's permanent secretary; Idriss Hiss, deputy permanent secretary; and Lieutenant Colonel Diallo Mohamed, the president's permanent undersecretary.

Minister Returns From Cooperation Meeting 8 Jun

AB1306122490 Dakar PANA in French 1018 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 10 Jun (POOL-NA/PANA)—Mauritanian Foreign and Cooperation Minister Hasni Ould Didi on Friday [8 June] evening returned to

Nouakchott from Bissau where the second session of the Mauritania-Guinea-Bissau joint commission for cooperation meeting took place 6-8 June.

The proceedings of this commission were mainly on trade exchanges between the two countries, the fishing sector, agricultural development, and consular relations, the Mauritanian minister stated on his return to Nouakchott.

Two agreements were also signed between the two countries in the cultural and scientific fields, as well as a supplement to a trade agreement concluded in 1975.

The Mauritanian minister was received by Guinea-Bissau President Joao Vieira to whom he delivered a message from his Mauritanian counterpart, Maaouiya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya, the Mauritanian radio reported.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Gabonese President

LD1606092490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] At the royal court in Rabat, King Hassan II and visiting Gabon President El Hadj Omar Bongo, held a private meeting yesterday. The president of Gabon is on a private visit to our country.

Hassan Departs for Franco-African Summit

LD1806162690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II left this afternoon for France to atend the Franco-African summit conference. Together with the French president, Francois Mitterrand, he will preside over the proceedings of the 16th Franco-African conference which will be held tomorrow in La Baule, western France. [passage omitted]

Independence Party's Abdelhaq Tazi Interviewed

PM1506154090 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 48

[Interview with Moroccan Independence Party leader Abdelhaq Tazi by 'Ali Anuzla in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Anuzla] The Independence Party described the ballot on the withdrawal of confidence [from the Moroccan Government] proposal submitted by the opposition parties in Parliament as illegal, but did not contest it before the competent authorities. Are you thinking of doing so?

[Tazi] We are still studying the subject in order to unite our efforts in that direction. Then we will contest the voting process, which we described as illegal. This is because the opposition had demanded that the balloting be open—that is, by calling out names—so that every deputy will shoulder his responsibility to his voters. We did not participate in that ballot and regarded it as illegal. And we will take the necessary position on it before the competent authorities.

[Anuzla] Do the other opposition parties share your view on contesting the legality of the ballot before the constitutional chamber?

[Tazi] Of course. They have experienced the problem, and we are still studying the subject. Obviously it is the constitutional chamber which is entitled to look into this issue. I believe that all the opposition parties are agreed on this matter. [passage omitted]

[Anuzla] If a call to form a coalition government is made, would the Independence Party be willing to participate in it? And what are your conditions?

[Tazi] We, as a political party, have always aimed to apply our program within the government system. We will be able to speak about conditions when we are agreed on a partcular program. But it is not possible to enter into a coalition government without a program or relative agreement on what that government is supposed to do. So far no offer of this kind has been presented to the Independence Party.

[Anuzla] Does that mean that you agree in principle?

[Tazi] I say once again that, as a political party, we seek to apply our program within any government organ, providing the program is agreed.

Sudan

RCC's Arap Notes U.S. Aid Linked to Peace

PM1806145690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum Confirms Washington Linking Sudan Aid to Return of Peace"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Colonel Martin Mulwal Arap, Sudanese Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor of Bahr al-Ghazal Province, has said that the U.S. Administration has stressed that U.S. aid to Sudan depends on the return of peace to the country.

Col. Martin said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his recent visit to the United States dealt with the U.S. peace initiative, the "lifeline" operation, and the evacuees' return to their areas.

He pointed out that the Sudanese Government agreed to the U.S. peace initiative, but voiced some reservations and urged the U.S. Government to continue to back peace efforts.

Meanwhile, informed Sudanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Lieutenant General al-Bahsir's government has announced its decision to close the cultural and economic sections attached to its embassies abroad and to reduce the number of diplomats working there. [passage omitted]

RCC's Al-Tahir, Somalia's Siad Hold Talks 13 Jun

EA1406131990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 June (SUNA)—The Somali president, Mohamed Siad Barre, made a stopover Wednesday [13 June] at Khartoum airport en route home from Libya. Bilateral relations between Sudan and Somalia, regional and international issues of common interest were discussed by the Somali leader and member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir who welcomed him at the airport.

Meanwhile, Somali state minister for foreign affairs Mohamed Ali Hamud asserted the firm relations existing between Somalia and Sudan. "Relations between the two countries are developing and they are maintaining continued coordination on issues pertinent to the Horn of Africa area", he said.

Commenting on the Israeli presence in the area, the Somali official told SUNA that the Israeli presence posed a threat to the Red Sea area's security and called for coordination among the Arab countries to confront this danger as the Red Sea is considered as an Arab waterway.

Minister Discusses Recapture of Town, Other Issues

JN1406194490 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, June 14 (GNA)—Sudanese Minister of Guidance and Instruction, 'Abdalla Lual has said that the government troops are on the verge of recapturing the southern township of Malut from the rebel forces. Lual, in a statement to Qatari dailies, AL-RAYAH and 'AL-SHARQ' published today, said the occupation of Malut was a propaganda stunt, noting that the small pocket and 400-man defence cotingent were attacked by 4000 rebels.

The Sudanese minister denied that his country's relations with Egypt were lukewarm, playing down the significance of propaganda campaigns launched by some newspapers in both countries. Lual emphasised that Sudanese-Libyan integration was not directed against anyone, especially Egypt. He noted that steps would be made soon to establish integration organs between Sudan and Libya.

On the home front situation, the Sudanese minister said the government is planning to convene a public conference as a prelude to reach a new formula for a new political system in the country, stressing that the government would respond positively to any proposals, even if that means the forming of political parties.

In his interview with 'AL-SHARQ' and AL-RAYAH newspapers the minister expressed optimism over possibility of achieving peace in the south Sudan during current year. The Sudanese official attributed his optimism to ability of the current government to enter into negotiation with rebel movement at any time with no preconditions and due to its endorsement of the recommendations drawn up by the national dialogue conference.

The rebel movement he added had lost all cards and is at present being manipulated by foreign hands which he said were seeking to link their strategic interest in the region to the rebel group. He criticised the American peace initiative on the south and described as carrier of ill-intended doubtful objectives which do not achieve the national interests of Sudan." [no beginning quote as received]

The Sudanese Government he added has rejected the American initiative because it is illogical for a peace mediator to talk about withdrawal of government forces from the south to the north and to disengage government and rebel forces by deployment of an international force because the south Sudan is a Sudanese territory on which government forces have the right to be present to maintain law, order and security.

In another reply to a question the minister said Islam in Africa was facing fierce onslaughts launched by the Christians, Zionists and secularists for the three have converged to fight Islam noting that Pope John Paul II has announced that he wishes to see a Christian Africa by the year 2000.

RCC's Arap Denies Pressure on Southern Migrants

EA0706074890 Khartoum in SUNA French 1540 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jun (SUNA)—Colonel Martin Mulwal Arap, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member and political supervisor of Bahr al-Ghazal Province, has categorically denied rumors that the government has exerted pressure on displaced persons so that they return to their villages in the southern provinces, adding that these reports are totally without foundation.

Col. Martin Mulwal Arap will leave Khartoum for Bahr al-Ghazal Province in [word indinstinct] days, accompanied by United Nations delegation. It shoud be noted that Col. Arop met his excellency the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum this morning in the presence of the governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Province.

Kuwait

AL-ANBA' Warns of Impending Israeli Attack

LD1906090690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0720 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 19 (KUNA)—Israel will launch an attack on Arab lands during the next few days, in response to the Palestinian sea borne attack on the Tel Aviv shores last May 30, a Kuwaiti daily said Tuesday.

Daily AL-ANBA', quoting Jewish-U.S. sources close to the Israeli military institute, said that Israel has three choices, Libya, Tunisia or Iraq.

The sources said that Libya may be the [word indistinct] since the vessel that carried the commandos' boats used in the sea borne attack came from Libya.

Israel may hit Palestinian leadership locations in Tunisia and in Baghdad, or headquarters of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, AL-ANBA' speculated.

Other sources expected that Israel will choose a place that does not come in mind such as Yemen, the daily said.

Editorial Contests Denial of Bar-Kokhba Remarks

JN1506162690 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Jun 90 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Israeli General's Statements and AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM's Reply"]

[Text] Arab and international news agencies have disseminated the text of a statement by the Israeli Embassy in Cairo in which an Israeli Army spokesman "categorically denied the statements attributed to General Bar-Kokhba, an officer in the Israeli General Staff, by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM." According to AFP and MENA, the spokesman said Bar-Kokhba has never made, either on Israeli Army radio or any other media, the statements published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. The spokesman termed what the paper published, and the Egyptian newspapers cited, as totally unfounded.

This sums up the Israeli denial, which came after Egypt issued a strongly-worded statement on the general's remarks and after several contacts, including one between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bush.

It behooves us to explain that the Israeli denial of the general's remarks is totally unfounded. What AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM published on the fifth of this month was a word-for-word account of an interview the Israeli Army radio conducted with Gen. Bar-Kokhba, assistant chief of staff. We have not fabricated a single word in the interview. Hence, it becomes clear that the Israeli denial is absurd and exposes itself of its own accord. In fact, the sequence of the interview emphasizes beyond doubt that the remarks fully express the ideas of the Israeli assistant chief of staff, and the general who holds such a position cannot be a nobody or be unaware of what he says and what the army radio broadcasts for him.

The general is fully aware of what he says. He, for example, declined to answer political questions because he is a military man. However, when asked who he would name to the defense portfolio, he did not hesitate to say General Sharon. This is so because he blamed those who were in charge of dealing with the intifadah—the Palestinian revolution—"because they were slow in crushing it."

In the discussion on the issue of war, the following was said verbatim:

[Question] Let us move on to other topics. A short while ago you spoke about the possible eruption of a new war and said this war is inevitable. Do you expect a war soon?

[Answer] I cannot say the war will break out today or tomorrow, but this possibility exists and we are aware of that.

[Question] Are there specific indications confirming your assessment?

[Answer] Anyone who thinks the Arabs are seeking peace with Israel knows nothing. The Arab countries continue to purchase advanced weapons and war equipment from the Eastern and Western camps. These countries now have huge arsenals of advanced weapons and I do not think the Arabs seek to possess all these weapons merely to stockpile them, but to use them against us in the next war for which they have been preparing for several years.

[Question] How do you view the next war?

[Answer] It will be a tough and difficult war and the Arabs will use their surface-to-surface missiles and the modern weapons they have obtained. These are offensive weapons like the F-16, F-15, and MiG-29 planes. Therefore, the Israeli Army will be forced to face a tough war, but we will certainly triumph.

[Question] Do you think Iraq will launch a war on Israel in the wake of President Saddam Husayn's threats?

[Answer] I suspect Iraq's ability to launch a war against Israel alone. However, the Iraqis will not hesitate to launch an offensive if they secure aid and military support from other Arab countries.

[Question] Do you expect Syria to stand by Iraq in such a case?

[Answer] I believe that the Syrians will hasten to support Iraq in its war against Israel and will indeed participate in this war. Other Arab countries like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen will help Iraq in its war against Israel. I do not rule out Egypt.

[Question] Do I understand from what you say that Egypt might return to the circle of war against Israel?

[Answer] Of course, and we will be forced to mass our troops on the southern border and reoccupy Sinai in the event of renewed battles on the southern front. This time I do not think we will stop at the banks of the Suez Canal.

We can note that the dialogue is an integrated one in the form of questions and answers and cannot be "cooked" or "forged." It would have been better for Israel to "reject" the general's statements and punish him for making them—if Israel's intentions were different—rather than deny he made the remarks, which the newspaper published exactly as they are. This means that Israel, the state, is like its Gen. Bar-Kokhba, who in view of his post must be well aware of the war plans existing in the Israeli military operations rooms and in the minds of the Israeli politicians and military generals.

The general was not talking at random when he said: And we will be forced to mass our troops on the southern border and reoccupy Sinai in the event of renewed battles on the southern front. This time I do not think we will stop at the banks of the Suez Canal. The man seems to be the student of Gen. Sharon, the commander of the force creating the famous Deversoir Bulge, who telephoned the chief of staff after crossing the canal to say: I am speaking to you from Africa. Now according to what we understand from the general's remarks and in light of the new Soviet Jewish conquest, the Zionist movement of expansion must be planning to reach the Nile River, which is the southern border of Torah's Israel.

Your words convict you, O Israel. As for our Arab brothers, they have ears that can hear, eyes that can see, and minds that can understand. Perhaps and maybe....

Paper Criticizes Vatican's Lebanon Initiative

LD1806085890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 18 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Monday strongly criticized the Vatican for its venture of adjusting the al-Ta'if agreement and accused it of being "part of the obitalas" [as received] hindering a Lebanese settlement.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-AMM' said that the Vatican's venture is a "mask" for the western stance that works at "drowning" the Arabs in this Lebanese crisis.

The Vatican gives itself the right to dominate Lebanese Maronites and through them rules all of Lebanon the daily said, adding that the Vatican also refuses any adjustments in the Lebanese political structure.

Union Cancels Oil Workers' Planned Strike

LD1606195390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1640 GMT 16 Jun 90

["Strike—Cancellation"—KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, June 16 (KUNA)—(?The Kuwait) Union of Oil and Petrochemical Workers decided to (?call off) tomorrow's strike by its members because the union has been told that its demands will be studied.

The decision to cancel the strike was announced by the union's President Salim Hama Suwayan [name as received] in a communique received by KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY this evening.

Sources told KUNA that His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Al-'Abadallah Al-Salim received earlier today a (?group) representing the union led by its leader Suwayan, who requested the meeting.

The union has originally planned an indefinite strike to start from tomorrow if the government doees not study demands (?for) increasing salaries (?and) improving conditions.

Guidelines for Indictment of Ministers Outlined

JN1806203890 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] An Amiri Decree places ministers on trial in the eventuality they are cited for crimes against state security, failing to honour their public responsibilities, misappropriating their offices to circumvent judicial procedures, as well as bringing disrepute to the elections of members of the National Assembly or the National Council.

Ministers, if indicted, will be tried by the Supreme Judicial Council on the recommendation of the relevant Amiri Decree.

The text of the decree, published yesterday in the official gazette (Kuwait Al Youm) stipulates that if a minister is indicted, he is liable to lose his ministerial position, including incurring all judicial penalties.

The trial to be held by a higher court will comprise five members selected by the Supreme Judicial Council from among the Kuwaiti chancellors, including two other stand-by members who will be selected in the eventuality if the original members fail to appear.

Within the framework of Article 16, the decree stipulates that the trial will be conducted in camera and indictments will be ratified when four members vote in favour. This sentence will be irrevocable—with the provision that such sentence would not be enforced due to the accused being tried in absentia.

Additionally, it will also be possible to request for a reconsideration of the indictment sentence based on a request by the public prosecutor, the defendant or his heirs, provided new evidence or documents are submitted which were not introduced at the first hearing.

Under Article 15, the minister will be deprived of parliamentarian immunity and suspended from his official duties in the eventuality he is referred to judicial investigation.

Under Article 7, the decree stipulates that the Supreme Judicial Council will be selected within a maximum period of three days, including an ad hoc questioning panel comprising three chancellors selected from the chancellors of the courts of cassation and appeal.

According to Article 8, the panel will conduct all its deliberations in secrecy and will requisition evidence from all government agencies. The panel will complete its findings and submit their report to the Supreme Judicial Council which will transmit the same within two months from the date of the committee's formation to HH the amir.

Under Article 9, the council will be required to selected the members of the high court within a maximum period of ten days from the date on which the indictment decision was referred to it.

Under Article 10, the chairman of the court will set a date to look into the legal implications of the case which should not exceed thirty days from the date of the decree.

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bulgaria

JN1706164590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Muscat, 17 Jun (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman and the People's Republic of Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today and exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level.

A joint statement carried by the OMANI NEWS AGENCY said that relations between Oman and Bulgaria will be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, noninterference in each other's domestic affairs, equality, and mutual interest in accordance with the UN Charter.

Bin-'Alawi Receives Bulgarian, Hungarian Messages

JN1806072090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a written message from Bulgarian Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov. The message deals with relations between the two friendly countries and means to improve them.

The message was delivered by Enyo Vasilev Savov, Bulgarian deputy foreign minister, when he was received by the minister of state for foreign affairs this morning.

The minister of state for foreign affairs has also received a similar message from Hungarian Foreign Minister, Geza Jeszenszky, dealing with relations between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual concern. The message was delivered by Balint Gal, Hungary's ambassador to Kuwait, when he was received by the minister this morning.

Saudi Arabia

King Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD1806190290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday 18 June 1990 at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said that, at the beginning of the session, the council heard a news briefing on the most important Arab and international events over the past 24 hours. It discussed a number of issues pertaining to the economic situation, particularly with regard to the petroleum market. In this context, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, reaffirmed the need for all OPEC member-countries to adhere to the organization's resolutions. He pointed out that this was the only way to improve the situation and stabilize the market. He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been and still is maintaining its full adherence to its specified quota, and hopes that everyone will adhere to the specified quotas, which would be equally in the interest of producer and consumer countries. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry Denies Gold Sale Report

LD1806145490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Jun (SPA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy has denied a report in the European issue of the 'WALL STREET JOURNAL' of 15 June 1990 that: The price of gold on the London Stock Exchange deteriorated on 14 June after Saudi Arabia placed large quantities of gold on the market.

In a statement to SPA, the source said: In spite of the fact that the Saudi Government has already denied carrying out any selling or buying of gold, we find it necessary to confirm this denial.

He stressed that neither the government nor any of its internal or external organs have any direct or indirect relation with the interference in the gold markets.

The responsible source in the Ministry of Finance and National Economy pointed out that the 'WALL STREET JOURNAL' is a newspaper of quality and has its readers. "We are hoping that the newspaper would verify the information it receives and that its source is unbiased in order to ensure its credibility."

Yemen Arab Republic

Saddam Husayn, Delegation Arrive in Sanaa

Hails Yemeni Unity

JN1606115190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 16 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn arrived here this afternoon leading a delegation on a visit to the Republic of Yemen. His excellency was accorded an official welcome at Sanaa International Airport. Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, led those welcoming the president. [passage omitted]

In a press statement at Sanaa International Airport, President Saddam Husayn said: The goal of my visit to Sanaa is to congratulate my brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, his brothers in the leadership, and the fraternal Yemeni people on the unity, which we, as Arabs and your brothers, consider a great historic accomplishment. Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's statement:

Naturally, when we meet with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, we must discuss our Arab affairs in any field that we believe useful for the Arab nation as a whole. However, this visit is especially to congratulate brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, his brothers in the Presidential Council, his brother deputy, other brothers, the Yemeni leadership, and the Yemeni people on the unity which we as Arabs and your brothers consider a great historic accomplishment. This is the primary and basic reason for my visit to Sanaa today. All other issues are nonessential—regardless of their importance compared to this primary objective—in order to say on behalf of the Iraqi people to the Yemeni people that what you have achieved is a great historic accomplishment which we hope you will adhere to. God willing, this is what you will do in the interest of Yemen and the Arab nation.

In a press statement, Lt Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed happiness upon welcoming his brother President Saddam Husayn in Sanaa among his kinfolk and tribe. Following is the text of Lt Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's statement:

First, I would like to warmly welcome my dear Brother President Saddam Husayn, the heroic Arab knight and leader among his kinfolk and tribe, in my own name and on behalf of the Yemeni leadership and the people of the Republic of Yemen. We have special and ancient historic relations between Yemen and Iraq. These relations have been enhanced and consolidated during my brother President Saddam Husayn's leadership of fraternal Iraq. I cannot describe the Yemeni-Iraqi relations.

As for Arab developments, the Baghdad summit yielded more results than other Arab summits. This was thanks to the wise leadership and responsible conduct of President Saddam Husayn. The Arab nation has been delighted by this summit and its results.

President Saddam Husayn left Baghdad for Sanaa this morning on a visit to the Republic of Yemen.

The delegation accompanying his excellency includes Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, Revolutionary Command Council member; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; and a number of officials.

Hold Talks With Salih

JN1606141490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and fraternal Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held a brotherly meeting at noon today in the presence of Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid to discuss issues and developments of interest to our Arab nation, as well as the brotherly relations between the two countries. During the meeting, brother President Saddam Husayn gave voice to the profound and heartfelt congratulations of the fraternal Iraqi people to the brother chairman, the brother vice chairman, and our Yemeni people on their reunification and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. He noted that unification constitutes a great pan-Arab achievement that will provide pan-Arab action with new elements of strength and capability to reinforce the Arab nation's position and capability to confront current challenges. He also stressed the Iraqi people's support for their brothers in Yemen in achieving further progress.

For his part, brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said he welcomed and was pleased with President Saddam Husayn's visit to his country, Yemen. He thanked him for his honest, brotherly, and heartfelt congratulations and for supporting the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. He also declared that Yemen would be a strong support and bring strategic depth for all brothers in the Arab nation, foremost of whom are the brothers in fraternal Iraq. He also reaffirmed our country's support for fraternal Iraq against all the unjust campaigns and challenges coming from the enemies of the Arab nation. He noted that Iraq's increased strength, progress, and capability in all areas is a great gain for the Arab nation and embodies the determination to achieve progress and strength. He then praised the warm, brotherly, developed, and model relations between the two fraternal countries which serve the aspirations of the two people and epitomize the higher goals of our Arab nation.

Brother leaders 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn also held a brotherly meeting in the presence of Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid, members of the Presidential Council, Council of Representatives Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, the members of the delegation accompanying the Iraqi president, our ambassador in Baghdad, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Islamic Conference

JN1806123790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn at the International Popular Islamic Conference for solidarity with Iraq in Baghdad on 18 June—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I welcome the distinguished brother scholars of the nation of Islam. Welcome here in your country, Baghdad. You know that Baghdad was established by the Muslims and that it was founded on principles of honor. Thus, we should always remember the bases and meanings on which Baghdad was established. We should also remember, among other things, that Baghdad should always be in the service of Muslims everywhere, and in the service of the nation of Islam.

Praise be to God for unifying your word so that you might present your plans that benefit the nation and unify its position on the right course in order to do away with injustice—with God's assistance. Brothers: You know that the main reason for our meeting is this manifest odious aggressiveness—this injustice, superciliousness, and arrogance of the forces that usurped Palestine, and the forces that humiliated Jerusalem, disregarding its people. The kinsfolk of Jerusalem—as is known—are not only the Palestinians in Jerusalem or Palestine. Its kinsfolk are all the believers and Muslims wherever they might be. In spite of this, our holy places and rights—which are crystal clear—have been attacked, but this time they [not further specified] came to say: Be careful not to open your mouth and talk about your usurped rights or to raise your voice about this issue. This injustice surpasses the injustice that has been inflicted on the holy places of Arabs and Muslims, as well as the holy places of the believers. They say this just because we are carrying out one of our customary humanitarian duties: to advance and uplift our people, the way others have the right to advance their people; to become familiar with the capabilities that constitute our current age, and with the effective means of our current age to fortify and defend our rights, as if this is forbidden to us and allowed to others. What is the reason behind this persistence by those who are acting on this arrogance and this injustice, that the Arabs should not possess the means that enable them to defend their rights?

This is because they know that we are brought up on the belief that the Arabs and Islam are an integral one; thus, if the Arabs become weak, Islam will follow suit. [applause] Similarly, if the Arabs rise up—and this will not happen unless they heed the honorable concepts of Islam [applause]—Muslims in all parts of the earth will rise up and increase in dignity. I would even say that humanity at large will rise up, and a balance will be established between the material aspect which is necessary for life and the spiritual aspect which demands constant attention with a clear mind and vision. Is it not our right—as Arabs and Muslims—to live the way all nations live, to choose faith and guidance and the path that enables our peoples to rise up, and to increase our capabilities for the sake of peace, humanity, and the defense of our legitimate rights, which are established in the UN charters? According to the laws of those who say they constitute a superpower, this demand appears unallowable. We knew that a great deal of what is allowed to them is forbidden to us. We did not know, however, that they could reach the level of impudence, arrogance, malice, and baseness that we have seen. [applause]

How can they dissuade us to follow this course despite our knowing well—through the message we have honestly served and spread in all parts of the earth—that there is no difference between one people and another, one individual and another, a white man and a black man? Or is this discrimination based on the strength of one's belief and the conduct that accompanies this belief? How can they dissuade us to follow this course despite our knowledge that this is the essence of the message we have spread in the remotest parts of the earth? How can they convince us now that they have rights additional to ours, and that they are allowed to do what we cannot do, while talking at the same time about humanity and human rights? This is the bone of contention between a people and a nation who want to live peacefully—but with dignity and in enjoyment of their rights—and those who want this nation to occupy some place other than this. Those people want to place our nation in a position of weakness and humiliation. It is not the feeling of humiliation but the belief in the degree of this humiliation that counts; the belief that we are only fit for the status determined by others. This is the essence of the contradiction between two states of affairs: one of them looking forward to possess what is allowable in accordance with heavenly and earthly laws....[interrupted by someone in audience reciting verses praising Saddam]

They want to dissuade us from following this path. How can we be discouraged when it is the path of our hope and dignity, and the only path that has no alternative but weakness and humiliation? They want to frighten us with threats and promises. How can we be frightened? We fear God only, and God is always on the side of those who support the cause of justice. Can this be possible? Will you let yourselves be frightened? How can we be afraid? How could a people who cherish glories built on courage to establish justice be afraid?

God's blessings be upon you; God's blessings be upon you. We are the party of God here. [applause] God's blessings be upon you. We here are the party of God. [applause] The party of God is superior to and more powerful than all parties. Each of us has his own features in his own country. As my brother the chairman of the session had pointed out to me before I had the honor of arriving in this place to speak to you, he comes from Senegal which, he noted, is immersed in its Muslim Africanism, and Africa is immersed in its more encompassing Islamism. When the special features of each of our countries are not in conflict with the more important and universal features, these become beacons and sources of strength. We are the party of God here, brothers. I am one of you, and whatever is decreed by the

Muslim ulema we will adopt as the road that should bring about pride for the Muslims, God willing. [applause]

Today, I had access to a document, presumably presented on 17 June 1990, rounding up the proceedings of a conference convened in the United States and attended by 1,200 American Jews, and at which speeches were made and a statement issued. I will ask the Ministry of Information to make copies available to you. This is to show them that Islam has greater democracy than they [applause], and that the Arabs are more democratic than they, being in the vanguard of those who are supposed to uphold the principles of Islam, and indeed, the principles of all the messages of the faithful. This is to prove to them that we are the true democrats, and as such publicize what they said about us. Indeed we will ask the Information Ministry to publish the document including the abuse hurled at us. This is for the public opinion to be informed of the depth of the rancor harbored by those who have been led astray from the right path by the devil. It seems that, having been led astray, they is no longer any need for God to lead them back to the straight path. Let me just read excerpts for you:

They talk about the danger of Saddam's deadly threat to Israel and argue that the real confrontation in the world, which will be something like the third world war, will be fought between the Arabs and Israel, which is backed by the United States and its allies. The Democratic majority leader in Congress—what's his name—has said that with Saddam Husayn in power, there exists a more volatile global situation. Saddam Husayn is all the more dangerous, having managed to bring about the closing of Arab ranks. This is when they know that it was the Arabs themselves rather than Saddam Husayn who have brought this about. The Arabs have rallied together for the right cause, and we do not think that any Arab would not want to take the side of right. The intelligence report suggesting that Saddam Husayn wants to strike an alliance with Iran has been another irritant for them. You will thus understand why they had allowed the [Gulf] war to drag on for eight years. The document likens Saddam Husayn to Hitler—a menace to the world and humanity as well as a threat to the Iraqi people. Just imagine them so concerned for the well-being of the Iraqi people. [laughter; applause]

They then talk in this organization's document about working to transfer the American Embassy to Jerusalem. They say Jerusalem was Israel's eternal capital, as the Israeli prime minister said before the Israeli Knesset. They talk about Jerusalem as an eternal capital for the usurping State of Israel. The document also talks about guaranteeing Israel's borders. No, not guaranteeing Israel's borders—I will read what is more accurate—guaranteeing defendable borders for Israel in light of what these borders mean as a result of the increase in Iraq's military might. Who is the one described as Hitler? We the Muslims and Arabs do not disparage anyone when he is down; we disparage the disparaged when he is standing up. But, if it is all right to compare, who is to be compared to Hitler? Is Hitler not the author of lebensraum, on whose basis he expanded and collided with others? This talk is about lebensraum. It is talk about guaranteeing borders, not the ones Israel is demanding today, but guaranteeing defendable borders on the basis of the so-called growing power of Iraq. A great deal can be said in this regard, but I do not want to preoccupy you with it. I would only like to say: If this is their theory—that is, to expand at the expense of the Arabs and the Muslims' holy shrines—then he who does not tell them that we will fight them has no sense of honor. He who does not tell the advocates of such a policy that we will fight them is not one of us. [applause]

Is there any threat in this? Is it a threat to tell the one who wants to expand at our expense, who wants to repeatedly insult us, and who wants to usurp our land, that we will fight him if he goes ahead with it? Imagine the new taboos in the dictionary of those people who say they have a human responsibility at the level of the entire globe. This is what the Americans say. Meanwhile, U.S. congressmen also speak this language. They want defendable borders for Israel to confront what they term Iraq's increasing military might, although other states lie between Iraq and the contact line. What does this then mean other than aggression? They then raised a hue and a cry when they learned that Iraq had mastered some science and technology. They believed that through this tendentious propaganda and hostility Iraq could be dissuaded from pursuing this course. As I said at a previous conference, I say now that Iraq will not be dissuaded from demanding the usurped rights in Palestine. [applause] Iraq also will not be dissuaded from pursuing the course of technology and science so as to be in a position to serve the Arabs and Muslims, God willing. [applause]

No Arab or Muslim in general wants to destroy anyone or threaten and annihilate the humanity of anyone, because the Arabs are fully aware not only of their rights but also the rights of humanity as a whole. The moment they turn only to their rights without remembering the rights of humanity, they will divorce themselves from the honor of defending the basic principles of the mission.

But no one has the right to imagine that he can build his own humanity at the expense of other nations' humanities. This is the essence of the idea advocated by Muslims and Arabs when they say: Palestine is for the Palestinians, and Jerusalem is ours and not for the usurper enemies.

Those who say that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, we say here—and let them record this and let history also record—that Jerusalem, God willing, will not be an eternal capital for Israel. [applause] They will discover one day the truth of this conclusion, just as they discovered the truth of our conclusion after the war. We addressed them on Baghdad radio in 1981 and told them that we knew that Israel and Zionism were prolonging the war for well-known reasons. However, we tell them that one of the reasons that made them overpower the Arabs in previous wars was the lack of Arab experience in prolonged fighting in modern history, while they gained experience in Western wars in World War II. Our conclusions were right.

Naturally, those who fought eight years in defense of the rights of a living people must be powerful and ready to make sacrifices in defense of all rights. To those who say that Jerusalem is an eternal capital for Israel, we say that this is just a slogan that will only isolate them more on the level of humanity—I would not say on the level of governments—and will only increase their illusions—and illusion only leads to misguidance.

Therefore, the Arabs and Muslims are not threatening anyone. However, they very clearly say: No matter who attacks us we will reply powerfully. [applause] You should know how the Zionists lied when they used these words. When talking to the Americans about the speech I made on 2 April, I believe, the Zionists quoted sentences out of context. They said that Saddam Husayn wanted to burn half of Israel. Fine, but continue the sentence. Say: If we attack Iraq and the Arabs, Iraq this time will reply powerfully. Yes, we will strike at them with all the arms in our possession if they attack Iraq or the Arabs. [applause] Is this not our right? Is this not the right to self-defense? Do they think that Iraq will remain silent if they strike at the Arabs or Iraq? If Iraq remains silent, it will lose the respect of those close to it. Because everyone knows that Iraq fought for eight years, and anyone who fights for eight years can fight for three, four, five, or eight years more. [applause]

Furthermore, everyone knows, both Arabs and Muslims and also the whole of mankind, what Iraq's capabilities are. If Iraq does not use them, what would it mean? It would only mean cowardice or collusion, God forbid. So what did those base illusionists, wherever they may be, expect? What did they expect from Iraq except this clear, frank reply which has been reaffirmed several times? Whoever strikes at the Arabs, we will strike back from Iraq. [applause] Whoever strikes at Iraq we will strike at him. We know that after the Baghdad summit they have been trying to attack an Arab country, not Iraq, so that they can say to the Arabs who met at the Baghdad summit: Look, you have taken your resolutions, and we have attacked such and such a country. So let us see what you can do. They imagine this time that every Arab will say: Thank God, it wasn't me. But we understand, and I think all Arabs understand, that resolutions are resolutions. They adopted the resolutions through fraternal dialogue. Iraq was just a host and an organizer by virtue of its duties on such occasions—just an organizer.

I say that we—all of us who met in Baghdad—understand that whoever strikes at any Arab today will be hit by all of us, each according to his resources. Accordingly, if Mauritania, lying on the extreme end of the homeland, or, if Hafiz al-Asad's Syria were hit, we will hit back at Israel. [applause] My Brother from Syria: In my own language, I only wanted to explain what I meant without talking too much. I say yes, Syria is the Syria of the Arabs and the Syria of the people. [applause] Hence, we will not hesitate to hit back at Israel if it hits Syria while Hafiz al-Asad is ruling it. [applause, chanting]

Do those who have designs want to divide the Arabs' security? Anyone who tries to divide the Arabs' security only wants to harm the Arabs. It is just like those who try to separate Arabism and Islam. Separating local security and the more important security constitutes direct harm and a premeditated intention against the Arabs. When they provide Israel with weapons that are more effective than all the Arab weapons put together, they say that local security must be kept separate from Arab security. What does this mean except defeat? Can Syria now, now, now fight Israel? We know this is impossible. This means that Israel can occupy any part of Syria's territory whenever it wants, and the Arabs cannot say: This is rejected and we will call upon each other to confront the aggression. Can Jordan face Israel alone? The answer is no. This means they want Israel to be in a position from which it can commit aggression against Jordan at any time, and the Arabs are not allowed to say: We act in solidarity with ourselves—because when we act in solidarity with Jordan, we are really acting in solidarity with ourselves.

They also deny Iraq things. Too much talk is being stirred up about Iraq coordination. They say: We have seen four Iraqi officers with the Jordanian Army—as if this were taboo. Arabs have a general view, just as Israel views some of what it calls governorates. It considers any aggression against a governorate an aggression against its entity, which has been planted at the expense of the Arabs. Arabs also view any aggression against an Arab country an aggression against all of them. Is this not a right, my Muslim brothers who are meeting now in Baghdad? If this is not right, please tell us this is not right, so we can see what is right. [someone in audience starts chanting] No, no, I am talking about the Muslims and Arabs only as a forward responsibility according to what God has ordered: to tell the truth to the Muslims. In his Book [the Koran], God Almighty has charged the Arabs with a responsibility, and He has not asked them to feel superior. Nationalism becomes abhorrent when it starts to feel superior. [applause] God has charged them with conveying a message and to serve Islam.

God assigned them duties, including the duty to say early where right is and where wrong is, and to receive signals from their Muslim brothers to correct what is wrong and to support each other for the benefit of all. This is what it is all about. We cannot understand Arabism outside of this context. Arabism is at the service of man and Arabism is at the service of Muslims. The Arab nation is part of the Islamic nation. In light of this concept, O my brothers, we repeatedly sent messages when that thing happened between us and Iran. Although we had been earlier treated toughly and met with harsh media campaigns, we were repeating, repeating, and repeating the messages because we understood that it was our Islamic duty to guide those who needed guidance.

At this honorable place, I have to say what we have to say. Those who say there is a conflict between Arabism and Islam, either those who view the concept of Arabism as arrogance or those who believe that this Arabism we have just talked about is in conflict with Islam, know nothing about Islam. [applause] Let us give examples so that we do not speak in general terms. You know that when God conveyed the message to their Prophet Muhammad through Gabriel, the Arabs communicated the message honestly. When they applied God's message, regardless of the type of government, in accordance with historical developments, life's details, and different interpretations, you know and my Muslim brothers from one end to the other know that the Arabs were faithful to the message in general. They were not arrogant.

Let anyone cite a single example of an Arab ruler who ruled in the name of Islam and exercised superiority over the Muslims. This did not happen because they understood the teachings of the Koran as they are. Almighty God granted the Arabs a great honor when He revealed the Koran in Arabic and made Arabic the language of Paradise. I am not of the belief that God means what some extremists believe—that the majority of the people of Paradise are Arabs. He does not mean this. The people of Paradise are more than us. He wants to remind them of the responsibility of the message, that they should be modest, and that they should offer sacrifice and wage the struggle. But when we take another example, matters differ. We do not want to unveil anyone's defects. The defect is personal and not related to the people. During the Ottoman rule, you saw a kind of arrogance in the types of rule. Moreover, they wanted to replace Arabic with Turkish. Therefore, this was narrow-minded nationalism. It was not a balanced national and humanitarian behavior.

But did the Arabs, when they had the honor to rule in the name of Muslims, ever try to press for any nation to substitute Arabic for its language? To my knowledge, this has never happened. So this is the concept of Arab nationalism—the special features that unite one nation, in the same manner as the special feaures uniting the Senegalese in Senegal, the Turks in Turkey, and the Spanish in Spain. When these features are carried to extremes, they are no longer acceptable. When these special features are given precedence over more worthy considerations, their advocates thus abdicate their responsibilities and their obligation to sacrifice for the benefit of Islam and its principles. This, my brothers, does not do away with the responsibilities of Muslims. I believe that Arab Muslims will on doomsday be held to higher standards than non-Arab Muslims. Arab Muslims will be asked why they have deviated and why they have made mistakes. Since the Arabs were entrusted with the message, they have moral and social duties in addition to other practical sides. And as such the Arabs must be at the service of Islam and the Muslims and must not be remiss in the discharge of their duties. When the Arabs neglect their role, they will be defeated.

And so, brothers, when at this convention the name of the Arabs is mentioned, it is done by way of a reminder to them of their duty to serve Islam and the Muslims. When all of us assembled here, clad in different costumes and various colors, see things in the right perspective, there will not be a place among us for a slacker who will not tell the Zionists clearly that Palestine has been stolen, that Jerusalem is captive, and that we, with God's help, and as Muslims from all nations and all races, are more resolved than ever. Hence, the Arabs carry on their shoulders a heavier burden, for practical and other reasons, toward the recovery of the usurped rights in Palestine and the freeing of Jerusalem from Zionist captivity. We are only talking, just talking, in order for my or your 10- and 20-year-old son not to forget that they have a sacred and honorable duty, and that the reward from God is unequalled. We have not ordered armies to move. The Western media will start an uproar when we call Palestine by its name and say that it belongs to the Palestinians.

Islam is more powerful than anyhing else. Islam has not expunged what is good. On the contrary, it has built on it. When there is any contradiction, Islam should have the final say in any point at issue. But, when all matters follow the same course in the service of higher principles, then there should be no contradiction. From this premise, Islam came to add the finishing touches to ethics. [applause] The simile I am going to use is meant for clarification: The Constitution takes precedence over other laws. It is not necessarily true, however, that other laws not clearly based on the Constitution should be abolished. But whenever a local law contradicts the higher law [of Islam], the local law should be abolished. [applause] For example, when any type of behavior under the heading or concept of nationalism in Senegal contradicts Islam, it should be retracted. And when the concept of nationalism in Iraq contradicts the higher Islamic principles, it should also be retracted. All principles that contradict the higher values should be retracted. And when a pan-Arab conduct, moreover, contradicts the higher Islamic principles, this pan-Arab conduct should be amended and ended for the good of the higher law. [applause]

My brothers: This is, in brief, our understanding of the relationship between Arabism and Islam. Therefore, we are only seeking clear guidance toward the path that pleases God. This should be an honor and guidance for all of us. So I welcome my Muslim brothers from wherever they came. You are welcome in your country. It is our duty to reassert that with your and God's assistance, we will do all that enhances the dignity of Islam and Muslims, and that which supports the Arabs' capabilities to serve Islam and the Muslims. Thank you, my brothers.

Ministry Views Iraqi 'Threats,' Calls for Peace

TA1906104790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem has said Israel takes a serious view of the latest threats from Iraq. He said these threats underline the need to promote the second point in the Israeli peace initiative, calling for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Jack Katzenell has more:

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the latest threats from Baghdad confirm the negative trend revealed at the Baghdad summit, which said no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no dialogue with Israel. The spokesman stressed that Israel has no aggressive intentions against any of its neighbors. Iraq's threats underline the need to promote the second clause in the Israeli peace initiative, calling for peace between Israel and the Arab countries, the spokesman said.

Observers in Jerusalem say Saddam Husayn's latest threat is worrying because it goes further than what he has been saying in the past few months. His previous line was that, if Israel attacks Iraq, he will respond with chemical weapons and everything else in his arsenal. Now he is saying: If Israel attacks any Arab country, Iraq will respond with total war. Hence the Foreign Ministry's statement that Israel has no aggressive intentions against any of its neighbors.

As for the spokesman's reference to Clause 2 in the Israeli peace initiative, calling for peace between Israel and the Arab countries, this stems from the Israeli position that the Palestinian problem is not the only issue in the Middle East conflict and that the Arab countries—Iraq included—must accept Israel's presence in the Middle East.

Observers in Jerusalem believe that the conflict with Israel is not the top item on Iraq's agenda. They also note the visceral hatred between Saddam Husayn and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad. But this is no cause for complacency in Israel, the observers say. If there is one thing that could unite even Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, albeit temporarily, it would be another war with Israel.

Jerusalem Considers Al-Qadhdhafi Bomb Remarks

TA1906092790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jun 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay, Ran Dagoni, Ilan Bakhar, and 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem said that if Al-Qadhdhafi carries out his plans to lay his hands on nuclear bombs, a new situation will emerge in the region, obligating Israel to do everything it possibly can to protect its citizens. Israeli military sources said that the Libyans are still far from possessing the operational capability to fire missiles carrying chemical warheads from Libyan territory to Israel. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem last night voiced concern over recent reports on the issue.

In consultations held in Jerusalem over the past few days, it was decided to first take action through political channels to try to dissuade Libya from continuing to develop weapons that threaten Israel.

Shamir Discusses Levi's Condition, Libyan Plant

TA1906111690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] A few minutes ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ended a 20-minute meeting with David Levi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is hospitalized here in the intensive care unit at Ha'emeq Hospital. His condition is good. We talked with the prime minister immediately after the meeting. First we heard from him about David Levi's condition and then about other issues on the agenda.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us about Foreign Minister Levi's condition and mood?

[Shamir] The foreign minister feels very well. He is recuperating here and is resting under the supervision of excellent doctors. He is already working, although not all day and not intensively. I got the impression that he will be able to return to work within a short time.

[Horowitz] Which issues did you discuss with Minister Levi? Did they include political issues?

[Shamir] They included political issues. I would call them urgent ongoing issues which require his opinion.

[Horowitz] Personal issues as well?

[Shamir] Personal? What does that mean? No, there are no problems between us.

[Horowitz] Mr. Shamir, how do you or how does the State of Israel respond to the reports that Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi is setting up a second plant for the production of chemical weapons in his country?

[Shamir] It is very grave and worrying. It adds dangerous elements to the whole atmosphere of artificial tension they want to create. We hope that the entire world will make sure that danger is eradicated.

[Horowitz] What does Israel plan to do?

[Shamir] Israel is one of the countries in the world and the region, and we will operate on the political level.

[Horowitz] He also threatened about atomic weapons. The Iraqi president also issued threats to Israel.

[Shamir] This is the current atmosphere; it is the fashion. While it should not be viewed as an immediate danger, there is no need to be lightheaded and to dismiss it. Everything must be done to make sure that the atmosphere passes and the dangerous actions cease. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 19 June carries a similar report by correspondent Hayim Hecht, adding that "Secretary Baker's questions will not remain unanswered, promised the prime minister. We maintain continuous contacts with the administration.

[The prime minister was asked, did you recently transmit a placating message to King Husayn? The prime minister responded: This is not true.]

Shamir Interviewed on U.S. Relations, Region

On 'Crisis' With U.S.

TA1806145390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 90

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during a tour of Petah Tiqva—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Shamir, in English] ...to play an important role in the efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

[Jerusalem Domestic correspondent Le'a Zinder, in English] One more question, Prime Minister: Up to now, it seems, the intifadah has reached inside the country, inside the Green Line. In the past the Likud criticized the handling by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of the security situation in the country. What does the Likud now intend to do to handle the situation?

[Shamir, in English] Well, as you know, there is a new minister of defense. He is reviewing now the situation in this regard, and I think that very soon he will come with his recommendations and proposals, and then we will see if and how we must change the means against the intifadah.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio correspondent 'Ido Ba'um] Mr. Prime Minister, was the appeal you made today to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to hold some sort of contacts with us based on a signal from the Syrians reflecting their willingness to hold contacts with Israel? Do you see any genuine chance of this happening?

[Shamir] This appeal was not made as a special initiative. Answering a question as to what we expect from the Arab countries, I explained that we will appeal—as we are doing—to all the leaders of Arab countries and propose that they come to negotiate peace between them and us.

[Ba'um] Parallel to your remarks of this morning, Al-Asad said the new Israeli Government is a war cabinet. What is your comment on this?

[Shamir] I believe it is a mistake, or deliberately misleading. Nothing is further from us than war. The Israeli Government has no bellicose or aggressive intentions.

[IDF Radio moderator Dan Shilon in the studio, via Ba'um at the conference] We would like to ask whether the questions we were presented by U.S. Secretary of State Baker still exist. Does Israel still regard itself as obligated to respond to Baker, and if it does, what is its answer?

[Shamir] We feel committed to hold debates and discussions with the U.S. Government on the peace process in the region.

[Shilon] We would request a specific answer.

[Shamir] This is my answer.

[Ba'um] The impression is that the relationship between Israel and the United States is in a continuous state of crisis.

[Shamir] Well, there can be different definitions of that. I regard the situation as one in which disagreements between us and the United States exist. It is not the first time; things like that happened in the past. Just as we overcame them in the past, we will this time, too.

[IDF Radio moderator Ya'el Dan from the studio, via Ba'um] Does the prime minister intend to propose new peace initiatives, which the United States says are now expected of Israel?

[Shamir] Well, we have various ideas and initiatives, and when we get an opportunity to discuss them in private talks with authorized representatives of the U.S. Government, we will advise them of our ideas and proposals.

[Shilon] Another question: Has the prime minister used the telephone number released by the U.S. secretary of state?

[Shamir] I do not think the telephone is the best or most apt instrument for holding discussions on as complex and multifaceted an issue as resolution of the profound conflict between us and the Arab world. From time to time one can use the telephone as well, but the system of telephone talks is a mere aid, rather than the principal means.

[Ba'um] Tomorrow the UN assistant secretary general is due to arrive here. Do you expect his visit to have any practical implications?

[Shamir] I am unable to predict any special outcome. I am familiar with Aime; he will tour the area and submit recommendations to the UN secretary general. [Relay of news conference cut short by IDF Radio.]

Discusses Settlement Expansion

TA1806170790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Report by Sheli Yehimovich on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir after the prime minister's tour of Petah Tiqva "about one hour ago"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Yehimovich] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, doubtless one of the first most important tasks confronting the new government is the rehabilitation of relations with the United States. Do you intend to travel to the United States in the near future?

[Shamir] I do not think I will go in the near future, although so far, nothing has been decided. We are probing ways that will help us to place our relationship with the United States on the same strong basis of friendship and understanding that we have enjoyed throughout the years.

[Yehimovich] Foreign Minister David Levi's aides have charged that your Cabinet ministers' remarks during the last weekend on the redundancy of the United States in peace negotiations have harmed relations. What is your position on this issue?

[Shamir] I think none of Minister Levi's aides said that; these are the inventions of a number of people with impure intentions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Yehimovich] Replying to a CNN correspondent's question on whether this government intends to add settlements to the ones already established in the territories, the prime minister said that it is more important to strengthen the existing settlements and that, in any event, settlements are not the main issue on the government's agenda. The main issue confronting this government is the absorption of immigrants.

Promises Reply to Bush Letter

TA1806180390 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent on 18 June during tour of Petah Tiqva; videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Shamir] I have received a letter from the U.S. President, in which he indeed asked me for replies and explanations about our path in the framework of the peace process. Naturally, we will reply. We will explain to him, to the best of our ability, our attitude, our proposals, and I sincerely hope if differences of opinion exist here and there, we will reach an agreement.

[Correspondent] Sir, in view of Israel's current position that there is no room for an imminent Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo, how do you intend to promote Israeli-Egyptian understanding on this issue?

[Shamir] I did not say that. I did not say we are against holding meetings between Israelis and Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The question is what are the conditions for the meeting, what is the agenda. This should be discussed seriously and profoundly. I am certain good solutions can be found.

As for Egypt, there is no doubt Egypt, the only Arab country with which we have a peace treaty, should be interested, and I hope it is, in not remaining the only Arab country with peaceful relations with Israel. That is why I believe Egypt should be very active with respect to expanding the peaceful region in the Middle East.

Soviet Bureaucrats To Stall Emigration Process

TA1806135490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jun 90 pp 1, 12

[Report from Moscow by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] The USSR has formulated its reaction to the issue of settling Soviet emigrants in the territories, after Israel failed to respond to Gorbachev's appeal to stop this.

A highly authoritative source said that the gates will remain open; Moscow has no intention of halting emigration, and it cannot close its gates to just one type of emigrant. Nonetheless, in the wake of the increasing Arab pressure on Gorbachev, they were promised that the Soviet institutes dealing with the issue—OVIR [Office of Visas and Registration], Customs, and others—will be instructed to procrastinate in their dealings with emigrants to Israel.

A senior and well-known Egyptian official who has visited Moscow in the past two weeks told me: You can trust the Soviet bureaucrats to do all they can to stall endlessly on issuing the various authorizations that emigrants to Israel need before they leave the USSR. He heard this from a member of the USSR Presidium with whom he met. The Egyptian official, who left Moscow yesterday, told me this during a conversation in the Communist Party's Central Committee Hotel, where many high-level officials stay.

The same person said that when Mikhail Gorbachev realized during his discussion with the U.S. President at the recent summit that the only difference between the two superpowers' attitude to the issue of settling immigrants in the territories is one of phrasing, the Soviets decided to take action. Gorbachev decided to make his first statement on the issue—in which he called on Israel to change its policy on settling immigrants in the territories—in Washington. It was reported that the Soviets briefed the Americans about Gorbachev's plan.

Observers familiar with the issue of emigration to Israel noted that, even before the emigrant crisis which broke out following Shamir's well-known statement, emigrants encountered many bureaucratic difficulties.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 18 Jun adds: Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency, believes that the reports that the Soviets have imposed limitations on Jewish emigration are not true. He told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that the reports on this issue are unfounded.]

Shamir Invites Soviet Delegates to Territories

TA1806143690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jun 90 p A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has invited members of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel to visit

Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, so as to see with their own eyes that the reports alleging that Soviet immigrants are being directed to the territories are untrue.

In a talk with MA'ARIV last night, Shamir said: If the Soviet consular delegation members visit Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, they will see with their own eyes that the lies spread about us have no basis in fact. The delegation members do not even need to apply to us for a permit to visit the settlements, because the State of Israel is an open and free country.

"Although I keep repeating that mendacious reports are being spread to harm us, these people never tire of spreading this lie further, that aliyah is being directed to Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. There is some dreadful propaganda being spread against us. Therefore, I call on members of the consular delegation to get up and drive out there, so as to observe the facts with their own eyes. I doubt, however, that they will do it."

The Soviet consular delegation in Israel yesterday refused to comment on the reported invitation to visit the territories. A senior source in the Soviet delegation said: I will not comment on diplomatic contacts with the Israeli administration.

1,700 Immigration Requests Daily to Moscow Consul

TA1806194990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Some 1,700 immigration requests are submitted daily to the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow. This was revealed today by Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz at a convention of the Zionist General Council. One quarter of Jewish people are moving toward Israel these days, said Mr. Dinitz [sentence as heard].

Our correspondent Dan Scemama reports that Simha Dinitz noted that envoys working in the Soviet Union teach Hebrew and provide background information.

Gorbachev Advisor Says Emigration Issue Solvable

TA1906090790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 90 p 2

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] Moscow—A key foreign policy adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachev said last week that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir can forestall a Soviet decision cutting off immigration by making a statement disclaiming any intention to direct Soviet immigrants to the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Gennadiy Gerasimov, the chief spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry and a top Gorbachev aide, said the Soviet government was "not very happy" with the creation of the new Likud government.

He told THE JERUSALEM POST that the "occupied territories are now the main issue."

The Soviet government was caught between its desire to allow free emigration and its unhappiness with settlement in the territories, which "creates tension in our relations with the Arabs," Gerasimov said.

He added that the Israeli government was following a "short-sighted policy to allow settlement in the occupied territories. Because of this, the next Israeli government will have its hands tied, and will not be able to follow a peaceful policy. [no closing quotation marks as published]

In a strikingly conciliatory telephone interview with THE POST, Nicolay Shishlin, adviser to the Communist Party's central committee, said that the Soviet Union is "not inclined" to begin limiting Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. He indicated that what Moscow needs now from Shamir is not a firm guarantee that no Soviet Jews will move to the territories, but simply a conciliatory statement affirming Israel's disinterest in settling Soviet Jews there.

Stressing that he was speaking for himself and not for the Soviet government, Shishlin said that Israel's call for a Soviet delegation to visit the country and ascertain that emigrants were not being routed to the territories would be "a wise step." Shishlin added, however, that the government could also "clearly declare that it has no intention to stimulate Soviet Jews to go to the territories."

Asked whether his statement was not out of concert with those of Gorbachev, who last week repeated his threat to begin limiting emigration unless he received assurances from Israel that Jews would not be settled in the West Bank and Gaza, Shishlin responded: "Of course, Gorbachev's words are more important than mine. But in my view, it is possible to find a satisfactory solution for the problem. Our president did not shut the door (to a compromise). The door is open." According to Shishlin, Gorbachev's toughsounding stance is motivated in part by "our strong opposition to terrorism in all of its forms. We don't want our citizens to become objects of terrorism."

Royal Decree Orders Cabinet Shakeup 18 Jun

JN1806113490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] A Royal Decree has approved the resignation of His Excellency Engineer 'Awni al-Masri as planning minister as of 18 June 1990.

Meanwhile, the following Royal Decree has been issued:

I, King Husayn I of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with reference to Article 35 of the Constitution, order:

First, the appointment of His Excellency Ibrahim Ayyub as minister of supply.

Second, the appointment of His Excellency Hikmat al-Sakit as state minister for cabinet affairs.

Third, the appointment of His Excellency Nabil Abu-al-Huda as minister of transport and communications.

Fourth, the appointment of His Excellency Dr. Khalid Amin 'Abdallah as planning minister.

King Husayn Interviewed on Mideast Peace, U.S.

JN1806065290 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Satellite interview with King Husayn of Jordan by "United Arab Emirates, UAE, Television in Dubai and its operating network in the United Kingdom" in "Face the Press" program, moderated by Riyad al-Shu'aybi and joined by 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Hadi Isma'il of UAE Television in Dubai; 'Ubayd al-Tayir, chief editor of Dubayy-based English language daily GULF NEWS, Sayf al-Marri, managing editor of Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN daily; Ghassan Tahbub, managing editor of al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ newspaper; 'Adil al-Rashid, deputy managing editor of Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper; and Andrew Taylor, head of the News Section in Dubai Television's second channel—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shu'aybi] Your Majesty, the emergency Arab summit showed that the pan-Arab security problem, with all its dimensions and ramifications, is mainly due to Israel's continuing aggression against Arab territory, and Israel's rejection of all peace initiatives, in addition to its expansionist posture. Does not this mean that Jordanian-Palestinian security ought to take precedence in the context of pan-Arab security, considering the organic relationship, and that Jordan is the first line of defense for this security? Does Your Majesty think the Arab summit has succeeded in devising a unified Arab strategy to confront the aggression from a comprehensive perspective of pan-Arab security that calls for deploying the Arab nation's own resoruces?

[Husayn] In answer to the major question which you have kindly posed, I would like to emphasize that, at this juncture, we are facing the toughest challenges that pose the greatest danger to the Arab order and the entire Arab homeland. Fortunately, and with God's help, in the recent past we managed to stand firm in the face of challenges at the eastern gateway of the big homeland. But in the context of the region, what we are suffering from here and throughout the world is this ongoing aggression that is targeted not merely at Palestine but also Jordan. The heirs of Jabotinsky regard Jordan as part of the land which had been planned as a homeland for the Jews in this part of the world. Jabotinsky's heirs are now at the helm in Israel. What my Baghdad Arab summit speech addressed has turned into reality which we now see before us. We see the red light and hope all the kinfolk and brothers in the greater Arab homeland will also see it. These people's plans call not just for settling in all the occupied Arab territory only. We are not opposed to individual rights. We ourselves are seekers of right for the Arab individual on his national soil. But in light of the changes sweeping the world, we fear that the Jewish individual's right to emigrate will-...[changes thought]. Consequently, a question arises concerning this right. It is feared the upshot will be that the Jewish individual will attain this right at the expense of the Arab individual in Palestine—the one who has remained steadfast throughout the past 23 years, the patient individual who has adhered to his identity, land, and rights. It is feared this will be the prelude to changing the realities anew, as happened in the past, and springing a new state of affairs on the world, at the expense of Palestine, Jordan, and the Arab nation.

The Arab summit has achieved what I regard as a beginning, and a declaration of intent—something we highly appreciate. With God's help, we hope to move to the stage of action in the interest of a better future for the Arab individual here and everywhere, and to translate into a reality what I have no doubt we harbor in our consciences, our hearts, and minds—one destiny, one goal, and one objective. I hope we will translate this into tangible reality so we may able to ward off dangers threatening the entire Arab homeland, and then proceed to interact with this world that has a great interest in this part where we live. According to conservative estimates, at least 65 percent of the energy reserves is deposited in the Arab region and in the neighborhood, and over the next 10 years, the world will become even more interested in and more dependent on our resources. The question for us is whether to be or not to be. Shall we make the world respect us the way we respect it? Will the world take the side of right, or will this nation, God forbid, be lost? I think that we have set out on the road and the Arab summit resolutions have highlighted pan-Arab security in Palestine and in Jordan, where we have the longest confrontation lines, and that has all along kept faith with the message of the fathers and grandfathers for the sake of Palestine and the Palestinian individual's right to his national soil. Jordan constitutes a shield that if it should be shattered—and it seems to me that this is exactly what is being plotted—the danger will directly threaten the Arab heartland. Here we have all the resolve and the determination to stand firm and fast. Put simply, the situation is that Israel has behind it world Jewry, the Zionist movement, and whoever it can sway. Israel is not dependent on itself, and is in no position to achieve what it wants with its own resources. It is dependent on support and backing. We appreciate what all our brothers have offered, and we are grateful for what they have offered both for the Palestinian cause and Jordan. I said at the summit that I first shouldered my responsibilities 38 years ago. In the late fifties, sisterly Saudi Arabia stood by us when I Arabized the Army command and scrapped the British treaty, and to date has made good on all its commitments, as have all brothers in the generous Arabian Gulf and throughout the entire homeland, in Iraq and everwhere. But the question now is the scale of the challenge we are up against. As soldiers for this nation, will we be enabled to put up a defense for its present and future with arms if necessary, and politically, intellectually, and with our hearts—if this nation should be targeted for aggression.

The summit marked a good start. We agreed that summits be held regularly and at set dates. It augurs well for the future that the agenda for the next summit in Cairo in November and every subsequent November is to focus on the economic dimension, and the standing and place of the Arab nation in this world of new blocs. But the danger is imminent and the challenges are great, and we simply do now know what the coming hours and days hold for us. Then we will hope for God to grant us all success so we may be well prepared for any eventuality. We are seekers of just, durable, and comprehensive peace. There will be no surrender; we have not surrendered, and, God willing, we will not surrender.

[Al-Shu'aybi] Your Majesty has warned that the Israeli role has been strengthened by the radical changes that have taken place in eastern Europe and are taking place inside the Soviet Union. You have also warned that the Soviet Jewish immigration, which in point of fact is forced immigration resulting from the end of the cold war, constitutes a danger not only to Palestinian rights and Jordan's security, but also to Arab national interests. How does Your Majesty see the effect of these changes on the Arab region?

[Husayn] Sir, their effect is extremely serious. Once again, I may have already covered part of the answer to this question. This region is small in area and capabilities. Even the water in it constitutes a very serious issue in view of the future needs here and in the entire region. So, when hundreds of thousands of people come to this region, I believe that they can only be absorbed at the expense of the people and owners of this region. In my opinion, we must face future possibilities. I believe that all indications so far—including the newly-formed Israeli Government, which is of a unique nature—are not reassuring. On the contrary, they make us believe that the sufferings of our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territories will continue. Attempts will also continue to uproot them or force them to abandon their land. Officials in Israel might also think it is opportune to change the status quo, not just in the occupied territories but also in the neighborhood, in order to guarantee their security and safety for a very long time to come. Should this take place, we here in Jordan would be in direct confrontation with this danger and possibility.

The picture in the world has changed, but we did not expect it to change to the point reached by the current changes. We expected that the arms race and the tension between the eastern and western blocs would not continue forever. We also expected that man's needs on this planet would eventually force both powers to reconsider their policies. We also expected detente. In fact, detente has had its effect on most hot issues in various parts of the world except this part, which is the focus of world attention, both East and West, due to its location and the sources of energy it contains for world needs. For instance, were it not for the stand taken by Iraq—its success in defending its land and reaching a cease-fire, as well as the recent initiative taken by its leadership to establish direct contact with the Muslim Iranian leadership with a view to starting a dialogue to settle the situation and restore things to what they were—there would have been many people in this world who would be pleased to keep things as they are; in other words, a cease-fire state only. This would have been at the expense of Iraq, the Arab homeland, and also Iran. Iraq's initiative is good and courageous. We hope it will be reciprocated by Iran in the interest of Iran, the Arabs, and all of us.

Here, however, we are face to face with danger. The situation is completely disturbed. We believe in the need for planned action to contact the Europeans and the Soviet Union, which had stood by us in many difficult situations in the past. We should tell them: Gentlemen, you were our friends and we are proud of your friendship. The changes that have taken place do not mean that your previous policies were inappropriate. How can we cooperate together and build on what existed? We will help you and you will help us. Once again, we will be in a position to appreciate your stands toward us. We support human rights. But the human rights of one individual must not necessarily mean usurping or prejudicing other people's rights.

We should also contact the United States and the West. We should tell the United States: The picture now is different. You assume a moral responsibility more than at any time before. You must be fair and equitable and you must deal with us in light of your concern for your interests. If you are indeed serious about doing anything to achieve just and honorable peace in this region, then this is the time for you to move sincerely and clearly. You must not retreat in face of the pressure to which your leadership might be exposed by certain quarters which have influence on the U.S. arena. There must be a move, but at the same time the real action is here. The action is that we must all make our voice clearly heard so this world will know that our nation is a living, determined, and conscious nation, God be praised, which will not permit anyone to treat it differently from the rest of the people in this world in any field. This nation has the will and the resources to build its strength, and in fact to contribute toward the advancement of mankind in this world. This nation has made contributions in the past which have enabled the world to make the great accomplishments it enjoys today.

[Tahbub] The Arab nation calls on the United States to move and practice its ethical role and influence to reach a fair settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Your Majesty, why do we speak with the United States while the past 25 years have shown that when its relations with Israel become stronger, when it gives support to the Israeli aggression, and when it protects Israel politically the U.S. interests in the Arab world are reinforced. This is a clear fact before anyone who reads history, Your Majesty. What conditions should be available to make the United States feel that it really should make a move and depart from the administration of public service which renders lip service [preceding two words in English] to improve its image in the Arab world?

[Husayn] Brother Ghassan, do not ask me this question. I am confident that you ask yourself this question and many people in the Arab world ask it.

[Tahbub] But the people want an answer, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] The answer, sir, is clear. The answer is to reassess all positions and review our inter-relations. We should all be aware—and on the highest levels—that nobody will last. All of us will perish. This nation and this Arab people throughout the large homeland will remain. We should abandon all doubts and all complexes we inherited from the foreigners when they were in control of large parts of our Arab homeland. We also should abandon the differences on borders and the problems which made us view each other with doubt, and perhaps made us prepare to face each other instead of mobilizing all potentials and capabilities to defend our Arab homeland.

Speaking about pan-Arab security, I believe that we have started on the road, I hope, with the everyone's assistance. I only consider myself a soldier in the service of this nation; I am honored by my ancestry and I have the honor to be an Arab and Muslim. I had the honor to be an Arab before I assumed this post as a soldier and a servant of this people and this community to which I belong. We are soldiers, and we all in the Arab nation are so, to defend our rights and carry out our duties. Otherwise, we will lose everything. The question is posed to all. Therefore, I was very frank and clear in Baghdad because I want everybody to hear my voice. We talk among ourselves, but I want everybody to be aware of the situation. God willing, there will be a response and we will begin work so that the United States and others will respect us as should be.

[Al-Rashid] Your Majesty, in light of the recent developments—beginning with the threats against Iraq and in the Arab region in general, the formation of the Shamir government described by all observers as a government of war, the military Israeli preparations whether in term of troop concentrations or in terms of the radar networks on the Jordanian border, and ending with the retreat of the peace process under the new government of Shamir, do you expect the enemy to launch an imminent aggression against Jordan or any Arab country? And what are the Jordanian or Arab precautions—if we can say so—to confront this aggression? And where have the contacts reached to form the eastern front on the Arab border with Palestine? Thank you.

[Husayn] Sir, we warned against and we were aware of the danger a long time ago. We tried with all our potentials and capabilities. On the local level here, we concentrated on national unity to stand in the face of the enemies' attempts to fragment and weaken us, God forbid, in order to destroy us on the road to achieving other goals. The danger is real, and it is before our eyes. The people here—and we are part of them—have the honor to defend the nation and to bear the burden of responsibility; that is, to remain steadfast and firm within our utmost potentials and capabilities. We considered every Arab issue to be ours. Since the beginning, the great grandfather, who had the honor to lead the Arab Revolt, sacrificed everything so as not to relinquish an inch of the Palestinian land or the rights of its people and sons. He is buried next to al-Aqsa. He was followed by my grandfather, the founder, who, together with his brothers here, saved this land from becoming part of the Balfour Declaration. In 1948, we moved and saved the West Bank with our potentials and with his efforts and the efforts of those all around him. Regrettably, our story is somewhat tragic. Concentration was placed, many times, on the limited negative points in comparison with the big positive points. In 1967, we waged a war because we were, we are, and we will continue to be part of this nation. We have the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and we say if the danger touches any Arab then it touches all of us. We knew what the results would be and, regrettably, they were as we expected. We live here as one family in confronting this danger.

The question is whether our nation will enable us to continue our steadfastness. We appreciate what it has given and provided this country and what it gave our brothers in the occupied territories. However, the issue is one of determination and capabilities. Israel receives continuous support and backing and we are confronting it. Would what is given to us enable us to perform the duties in the way the nation wants in all parts of this large homeland? In the end, all we have are our souls, which we will not hesitate to sacrifice for this nation. We will do the impossible, we will remain steadfast, we will hold fast, we will defend the land, because all we want is God's grace, praise be His name, and a just reign for future generations, the generations threatened with this danger.

Regarding the eastern front, sir, Israel practically says that it considers any Arab non-Jordanian presence on this land as an aggression against it. The answer to this is: Enable Jordan to build and develop its power until it becomes able to stand up and receive the first blow so that the other brothers in the greater homeland will reach it in time, along this long strip, which is a target.

We are dealing and cooperating with all our brothers. We urge them to work and coordinate amongst themselves. As the saying goes, it is useless to send aid at the last minute. We tried this in the past often enough. We must prepare ourselves. But we are confident, God willing, that our brothers will perform their duty toward themselves and toward their soldiers here in the front line of confrontation.

[Al-Marri] Good evening your Majesty. My question deals with the important aspect of the economic crisis fraternal Jordan is suffering from. Undoubtedly, Your Majesty's government has some basic means for solving the crisis in the Jordanian economy. Could you please inform us of the basic outlines of the policy to end the current economic crisis and how to confront the negative effects on the Jordanian people that could result from the corrective policies, such as increased unemployment and price hikes? In addition, how much truth is there in what has been repeated that the decision to disengage ties [with the West Bank] was the beginning of the crisis?

[Husayn] Brother Sayf, my answer to your question is that the decision to disengage ties was not the beginning of the crisis. The decision to disengage was a response to the Palestinian Arab people's desire to be given the chance to express their opinion concerning their future, destiny, and their cause. It was a response to the requests of the Arabs throughout the greater homeland. This decision in fact changed nothing in our total commitment—and we are the people closest to Palestine and its people—to support them with all our potentials and resources.

The economic crisis is the tax Jordan is paying by virtue of its position and responsibilities toward the Palestine question and the Arab nation as a whole on the military and all other levels. To start with, the amount of deficit from the point of view of actual size was more or less equivalent to the aid we expected from our brothers from the first Baghdad summit onward to build our military force, confront the danger we are facing, which is cultural in every sense of the word, provide the requirements of our individual, and prepare him to perform his duty of confrontation through education, knowledge, work, and progress. Circumstances in the region and the world lead to limiting much of what we expected from our brothers. The problem started and continued; we lived in hope and continued our action and attempts to realize the goals we set ourselves within our human potentials, until the crisis developed. The crisis has affected every individual in this country and continues to do so. It is heavy and harsh. We are fully determined to do the impossible to remedy this problem. Therefore, naturally we needed to set a program and contact others outside the Arab region to open up all possible opportunities and review everything so that what we have in our hands will take us as far as possible. This was an attempt, as it was in the past and continues to be today, to reach the stage where we can stand on our own two feet and depend on ourselves and our own resources.

However, once again, the question remains, is the problem that of Jordan and its economy; is what Jordan is suffering merely a phenomenon of its population count; or is it part of the greater problem, that of demographic location, suffering in the occupied territories, and steadfastness in defense of this nation? If this is the true level, hope in our brothers remains great so that they will provide us with what world Jewry and the Zionist movement provide Israel with, or something similar, before we are asked about what we will offer. Rest assured that we have always offered—and will continue to offer—everything that we own, and first and foremost our souls, in defense of our nation and its right to exist.

[Al-Shu'aybi] Your Majesty, no doubt the disengagement decision was a national decision, which placed the Palestine issue on its right course. It has become an issue of a people who have their own national legitimate rights on their soil, it is no longer a humanitarian regional issue. My question is about the confederation: Should the confederation remain contingent upon the future of settlement, or should there be a practical prelude to it, in order to embody its factors in a number of realistic, positive practices which could drive the idea home in the minds of the new generations of the Palestinian people, who have been brought up under the occupation?

[Husayn] Sir, the answer is twofold: Firstly, after our disengagement decision, we began here the process of building. And directly with this decision, we made another decision to hold the general parliamentary elections, in order to return to the democracy we are accustomed to. In the past, we have felt and sensed some of the features of this democracy. There was popular participation in shouldering responsibility through awareness, focus on national unity, and building the modern institution of the state, in the full sense of these words and with all dimensions entailed. Coincidentally—and our life is full of challenges—our decision ran parallel to the country's going through one of the most dangerous, most difficult, and harshest stages both for myself and for the people whom I consider members of my one family. Nevertheless, we have persevered and continued. We wanted to see the facts with all their dimensions: the people's orientations, their feelings, and what happened during the past period since we had an elected House of Representatives—the period during which we have transcended the setback in 1967, though we are still suffering its effects. I am satisfied with the results. On the one hand, I believe it is a service for our objectives, aims, and our beliefs on this land as a family which stands on this part of the great homeland. The other part of the answer is related to the Palestinian side—our kinsfolk and brothers. We have begun work and construction. As for the confederation, it will happen when the time is appropriate, when this becomes the demand of the Palestinian side, and when they are able, with absolute freedom, to put the issue up for discussion. We are ready to talk about it now or at any stage in the future. We, they and all of us in the Arab homeland are one family—and this is the reality as regards Palestine—the closest Arab brothers to us in this big homeland, considering our past, suffering, and life together.

[Al-Tayir] Your Majesty, the political developments witnessed in the Jordanian arena since 1987 culminated in last year's parliamentary elections, which were the first in 20 years. In your opinion, how can these developments respond to the demands of the present phase, which is attended by economic hardships, and how can they lead to more democratic practices, especially in the current situation and the Israeli threats?

[Husayn] Brother 'Ubayd, we will do all we can and will make every effort. Parliamentary life and democracy have returned to Jordan even in face of the challenge and danger. Immediately after the elections, I felt that the situation required the formation of a royal commission to draft a National Charter. For this commission, we chose a group of citizens which, in my opinion, represents all political trends and social classes in our society. We asked them to cooperate among themselves as members of this society to draft the National Charter. This means: You our kinfolk and brothers are here one community despite the differences and the different interpretations and views in the past and present. Your destiny is to live together. You have the honor to meet and work for the future. You together give us the results of your opinions and ideas so that all this will prepare for the exercise of political life on the largest scale. And when you complete the draft of the charter we will present it to the people. And we hope that we will move to a semi-final situation so as to guarantee that the practices are correct and sound and to guarantee the right to organizations—while respecting the Constitution and preserving it—and the exercise of politics, work, and building process. We will guarantee all this as well as the protection of our achievements, and consequently, we will guarantee the soundness of the march in the future. With God's blessings, they began the work and we hope that they will present us with the results of their work and efforts in the near future. We are building in every field, we work, and we face the challenge and danger within our utmost capabilities and potentials.

[Al-Tayir] Your Majesty, it was proven in the past that the Arab countries failed to honor their financial commitments to Jordan. I would like to note that in the Baghdad summit in 1989 [as heard], the Arab countries pledged to pay approximately $1.25 billion annually to Jordan. Jordan received approximately one half of the amount. My question frankly is this: The recent Baghdad summit noted a financial and morale support for Jordan. If the Arab countries fail to honor this commitment, will Jordan—under the Israeli military pressure—enter into direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of the Camp David accords?

[Husayn] Look, sir. The hope that we pin on our brothers is great. Frankly speaking, I believe that abandoning Jordan means abandoning Jordan and Palestine, which means that others in the Arab homeland will face what we are facing. Therefore, they should be prepared for this. I believe that we in Baghdad presented our cause very clearly and I believe they have comprehended all this. I have great hope that we will see and feel the results very soon. Our situation does not tolerate any procrastination or delay. We presented all this to the Arabs everywhere.

Sir, the great Husayn died and is buried next to al-Aqsa. He did not make any concessions. I do not know what the future will bring. I assert that I have never compromised on a single inch of Palestinian land or an iota of Palestinian rights. I will never compromise over Jerusalem or any rights in any form or under any circumstances.

Jordan and its people, God willing, will perform its duty in the best way possible. If left alone, however, Jordan will not bear responsibility for the consequences. We might all be finished, but frankly that means the danger will be transferred to what lies behind us and will threaten the heart of the greater homeland. Regarding compromise, we shall not compromise. Life, in my opinion, means nothing without a principled stand, honor, duty, and a course set by my fathers and forefathers along which I shall move, regardless of what the results are. In the final analysis, I am nothing more than a human being and soldier at the service of this nation. Never shall it be said that a Hashemite compromised Arab land, Arab and Islamic holy shrines, or the right of an Arab human being to live on his land and soil.

[Taylor in English] Your Majesty, may I ask you about what's become known as the Baker plan. There is a new government now in Israel. The Americans seem to be re-assessing their attitude towards the Palestinians, and possibly towards the whole Middle East question. Does all this mean that the Baker plan, such as it ever was, is now finally dead and buried?

[Husayn in English] Andrew, I honestly cannot see anything remaining of it. I believe, sir, that the process was derailed when the whole world, with the exception possibly of the United States at the time, was moving toward an international conference. In fact, even the United States was suggesting that that might be the final and realistic venue to resolve the problem with the participation of all the parties to the conflict and the participation of the Palestinians, through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. We have been talking about such an international conference being held under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council, with the help of the secretary general of the United Nations. Later, there was a suggestion, maybe, the two superpowers. And then, this approach was made that the gap between the Palestinians and the Israelis was too vast, and therefore, why not have a dialogue between them to get them to narrow this gap in preparation for the international conference. And then we had the plans and the points. Right now, we have nothing at all. In that sense, the process was derailed and we are facing a very, very critical moment when the United States and hopefully the rest of the world and all of us need to re-assess where we stand.

[Taylor in English] Following on from there, Your Majesty, what should be, then, the role of the western nations, not just the Americans, but possibly the Europeans, the United Kingdom at the moment?

[Husayn in English] In regard to Europe and the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom has quite a role that it can play. It has certainly its links with this area. It has its position within Europe. It has also access to the United States and a positive influence that it can contribute. And, hopefully, the results will be positive. And I believe that the government in the United Kingdom is aware of all this and is aware of the realities in this area. More than that, Europe's future is also linked to this area and what happens here. And the interests are great, beyond those that are ethical and concern the general trend in this world to try to resolve problems wherever they exist and threaten regional security and stability or peace.

What is happening here is contrary to what is happening everywhere else in the world. So I do believe that Europe has a voice that, hopefully, will be heard and I hope that Europe and the United States and the rest of the world can re-assess and help all save the situation before it is too late.

There are extremists, and I have warned that there are extremists waiting and doing their utmost to destroy any chance for a better future for people in this area. And I believe that they are doing their best now to make the possibility of peace, or a process leading to peace, something of the past, a miss. This is what we see in regard to the recent declared policies of the new government in Israel. And what is the world to do about it. I hope we can have a positive and re-assuring answer as soon as possible.

[Taylor, question unheard on tv; supplied from Arabic translation in newspaper] Does Your Majesty believe that the time is ripe for an initiative by the United Kingdom, for example, such as calling for an official meeting between Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat?

[Husayn in English] I suppose they are in touch and maybe that would be a welcome development. I believe that the PLO as such has done everything it was ever asked to do to meet the criteria set for it to play its vital role representing the Palestinian people, its constituency, in resolving the Palestinian problem. You cannot resolve it without the participation of the Palestinians, obviously. And I believe they haven't got much to show for that. But I believe it is to their credit that they did what they did so far.

[Isma'il] How can we explain the phenomenon of the U.S.-Arab relationship on the one hand and and the U.S.-Israeli relationship on the other? There are huge mutual interests involved in the U.S.-Arab relationship. As for the Israeli relationship: Israel is a mendicant state which thrives on U.S. grants, gifts, and aid. We find, however, that Israel is more outspoken in its political stands and opinions toward the United States and the West. Although the interests of the Arabs are large, we find the Arabs hesitant most of the time under different justifications. I can cite many examples here; however, I will only point to the most recent incident: Do you not think that the official Arab response to the recent U.S. veto—which all Arabs believe to be the peak of disregard for Arab summits, their resolutions, the Arab nation and its will—has been far below the expectations of the Arab nation, and that such stands might cause Arab summits—whether now or in the future—to lose their credibility and efficacy toward the masses of the Arab nation?

[Husayn] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz: I do not know how to answer you, but I hope that we would discuss and work to answer this question here in the Arab homeland at all Arab levels, and at the highest levels which shoulder responsibility in the Arab homeland. I believe the suffering that has resulted from all that is happening is felt in all hearts and consciences. I agree with you that many disregard us and treat us in a manner which we should not accept. I might be one of my brothers—and indeed I am one of them—who say: It is our fault. I do not say that the answer to all of this should be through emotional reaction and reckless behavior if we are to answer every question, and have the ability to restore to this nation the status it deserves among all the nations of the world. I also agree with you that others need us. But, regrettably, our voice is lost, and our word is not heeded. This is due to many reasons and to our own misgivings about each other, our wars, and our disregard of our right now and in the future to live as a nation. Arab summits are the gathering of Arab worries, sufferings, and problems. I pray to God that He might grant my brothers—and I am one of them—success in order to carry out our duties. It is through determination, perseverance, and loyalty that we can reach our goals and objectives, which are, after all, the selfsame Arab goals and objectives. These objectives are where they should be. The Arabs have the right to cherish these in their consciences and hearts.

[Tahbub] Your Majesty, a close reading of Your Majesty's speech at the emergency Baghdad summit, and of the statements, interviews and speeches before and after, have left us with the impression that you feel there is not sufficient appreciation for Jordan's role in facing Israel and the process and efforts of settlement. To what extent is this feeling correct?

[Husayn] Sir, it is our duty to put a clear picture before all our brothers and kinfolk and Arab family in the great Arab homeland, so that they might know where we stand and what we are facing and confronting. Circumstances have been very dangerous, therefore, frankness and clarity have been a must. We would like to express our due thanks, gratitude, and appreciation, in the name of all of us here in Jordan, for all that we have received from our brothers throughout the long march in face of the challenges and dangers, which we do not face alone; they threaten all of us in the great homeland.

However, the picture has changed, and the magnitude of the dangers and the challenges has reached a level that we have to address them [the Arabs] about it so that no one would blame us. Our destiny is here, sir. What will happen will happen. God willing, however, we will stand the way we have always been, with heads high. But, we did not want anyone to blame us under the excuse of ignorance of the facts. And this might be correct. That is why we have laid our cards on the table before our brothers, awaiting their help, chivalry, and brotherhood, to enable us to remain soldiers at this gate defending them with our hearts and lives—by this I mean the Arab individual in any part of this great Arab homeland and in the Arab depth behind us which is also targeted and threatened.

[Tahbub] Your Majesty, how do you evaluate Jordan's relationship with the United States now?

[Husayn] The United States is a state which circumstances have helped to become the main power in this world. Yet, it is influenced by the views and politics of a side that stands against us and threatens us. Our dialogue is continuing. Our ties with the United States in recent times have become lukewarm. At one stage, they chose to stop arms supplies to us. Therefore, we took different directions: Europe and the Soviet Union. We had to obtain weapons, at the minimum level, to face the huge military machine and the threat we are facing. Therefore, we are now, in terms of our economic and material conditions, perhaps paying the price of our decisionmaking and policies. On the political level, our dialogue is continuing. We tell them what we believe. We believe they can hear when they are spoken to in a language that they often might not like. However, this language is based on reality and clarity of the vision of those who speak to them. We have self-respect, and we deal with everybody in the appropriate way: We respect whomever respects us, and we believe others do respect us when we say to them what has to be said on any stand which we find out of its proper course, and that which we cannot accept.

[Tahbub] Your Majesty, at this stage, can we describe the relationship as lukewarm?

[Husayn] I think the U.S. president knows this region more than those who preceded him. I believe he has many preoccupations particularly at this time. I also believe that he, along with the Administration, are qualified to listen if they were addressed collectively by all of us and to reconsider their policies and stands. Naturally, I might be mentioned now in the Western media in the United States and other states. The media concentrate on me personally and on Jordan. Suddenly, I am becoming an extremist. But this must raise a question for them and they must answer this question one way or another. If I was a moderate in the past in the eyes of people, then what prompted me to become an extremist? I believe I have been and still am realistic. The others in this world must reconsider their views on what is taking place here, in this region. They should not regard silence as an indication that things are good. Things are not good. I believe I have expressed a great deal about the feelings inside me through my dialogue with you today. This has in reality been an expression of what is going on in others' minds and the great majority of the Arab people in all parts of this great homeland.

[Tahbub] Your Majesty, in the name of the UAE television from Dubai, GULF NEWS, AL-KHALIJ, AL-BAYAN, AL-ITTIHAD, I thank you for making available to us the opportunity of dialogue through which you have cleared many queries which frequently come into the minds of the Arab citizen. Here, we wholeheartedly hope that Jordan will remain dignified and steadfast under Your Majesty.

[Husayn] I thank you, my brother. I thank you all, brothers. God bless you all.

Government Rejects Amendment to Al-Ta'if Accord

NC1806173090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpts] President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss today told Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente that they welcome the Vatican initiative and any overture aimed at supporting the legitimacy on the basis of the al-Ta'if accord.

Media sources cite a government official as saying that the response conveyed to Puente emphasized that any discussion must stem from the al-Ta'if accord and that any amendment to this accord is rejected.

Puente, who conferred with President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss today, described his talks as positive and refused to explain the amendments he proposed to al-Ta'if accord. He said that the amendment to the al-Ta'if accord is more complex than it appears. He noted that a comprehensive solution can be reached with good faith. [passage omitted]

Regarding the papal overture, media sources cited a prominent government official a short while ago as saying that any discussion by Papal Nuncio Puento must stem from the al-Ta'if accord, because the legitimate authority is committed to it and rejects any amendment to it. The source stressed that withdrawing the al-Ta'if accord from the Chamber of Deputies is absolutely out of the question. He stressed that the papal nuncio will continue his efforts and will leave the door open to further discussions. The government will seek to promote these efforts in a positive way.

Three Reportedly Killed in Eastern Area Clashes

NC1906094890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] REUTER has reported that three people have been killed and four others have been injured in clashes that have been taking place on the eastern area's combat lines since 0900 today.

According to security sources in the eastern area, the battle that occurred on the al-Nab'ah-Salome axis is the most serious violation of the 29 May truce. The latest casualties bring the total number of people killed in the eastern area's war to 1,083 since the fighting broke out on 31 January 1990.

According to information received from the eastern area and the media of both warring parties, violent clashes with various types of weapons, including artillery, are raging in the areas of Salome, al-Rahmah Center, al-Dawrah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, Hursh Thabit, al-'Adliyah, and the Museum.

'Awn's media have reported that two civilians died as a result of the bombardment of residential neighborhoods. They said that one of them, Hanna Mansur, was killed in the industrial area and the other, who has not been identified, was killed inside his car near the 'Azar coffee shop. A third civilian was injured by sniper fire in the al-Dikwanah area. 'Awn's media also said that the positions of 'Awn's forces in the Salome, al-Rahmah Center, and Sinn al-Fil areas have been coming under sniper fire and added that shells have fallen on the al-Matn coast.

The Lebanese Forces media have reported that their positions are being shelled in Jisr al-Wati, Sinn al-Fil, al-Nab'ah, al-Dawrah and in the vicinity of Mirna al-Shaluhi Center. They added that intensive sniper fire is being directed at the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and violent clashes are taking place on the Hotel Dieu combat lines.

Cease-Fire Called 19 Jun

NC1906103990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Attacks with various types of weapons from the positions of 'Awn's gunmen against Lebanese Forces positions along the combat lines in Galerie Khabbaz, al-Nab'ah, Sayyidat al-'Inayah, al-Dawrah, Salome, and the vicinity of al-Sayyidah Church in Sinn al-Fil became more intense at noon today. A number of mortar shells also fell in the vicinity of Beirut Port.

We learned a short time ago that a cease-fire was declared at 1210 but 'Awn's gunmen did not immediately observe it.

Organization Claims Nine SLA Militiamen Killed

NC1906104790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] REUTER cites an organization calling itself the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Martyrs Battalion [Katibaat Shuhada' 'Ayn al-Hulwah] as saying that one of its groups killed nine members of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on al-Hamra' hill in Kafr Falus last night during an operation carried out against an SLA position.

Further on Resistance Attack

NC1906114790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] In the resisting south, a group of resistance fighters used machine guns and rockets to attack a position held by the agents in the area of Saydun, near Jazzin, last night.

Resistance sources said that the group captured and immediately executed nine agents as a result of the attack. The group also took control of the strategic al-Hamra' hill in the Kafr Falus area, east of the city of Sidon. One resistance fighter was killed and another wounded. Both were evacuated to the liberarted areas.

The agents' radio admitted the attack and said that its forces carried out an extensive search operation and fired scores of flares over the scene of the attack.

Paper Says U.S. Must Reevaluate Policy, Heed UN

JN1606100590 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0800 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has said the United States is now reaping the bitter fruits of its unlimited support for Israel and its policy. The paper called on the U.S. Administration to adhere to international legitimacy.

In today's comment, the paper refers to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements and says: These statements have placed the U.S. Administration in a critical position, as Shamir was not satisfied with simply rejecting Baker's plan, but went on to completely ignore it. Thus, the United States has found itself not only in a dilemma due to the collapse of its plans to start an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, but also in a position which threatens its international relations in the current international detente.

The paper points out that Israel no longer attaches great importance to the United States, since it is convinced that the U.S. Administration will eventually submit to the pressure of the Zionist lobby and ensure Israel's needs, even if they are detrimental to U.S. credibility and interests.

TISHRIN expresses the belief that the formation of Shamir's new government casts doubt on U.S. policy in the region. If the U.S. Administration is truly against being involved in Israel's extremist policy which is hostile to peace, then it should return to international legitimacy, represented by the UN Security Council and the United Nations.

The paper explains: There is international consensus on the need for a quick initiative to protect the citizens of the occupied Arab territories from Israeli massacres, and the need for an international peace conference under the supervision of the United Nations with the participation of all parties to the conflict.

TISHRIN adds: By involving itself in the Israeli stand which rejects an international peace conference, the United States has paralyzed the Security Council and has encouraged Israel to continue rejecting peace.

The paper concludes by affirming the need for the United States to return to international legitimacy and implement the UN resolutions, and thus forcing Israel to submit to the will of international society.

Papers Reiterate Support for Lebanese Legitimacy

JN1906082990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 19 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial entitled "The National Lebanese Charter and the Misleading Paths", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Lebanese charter which was approved by the Lebanese deputies in al-Tai'f is for all the Lebanese. It came to place Lebanon's interests above all personal or factional interests because it is the framework for accord among all the Lebanese.

The paper affirms that the majority of the Lebanese have rallied around the al-Ta'if agreement, confident that Lebanon's future, unity, and solidarity are more precious than any factional or party privileges. The paper indicates that opposition to the al-Ta'if agreement by some people means opposition to Lebanese accord, which is why fighting broke out in some areas in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH says: During the opening session of the new People's Assembly last week, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed the hope that those who are still negative toward the national charter would reconsider their stand, as it serves the interest of Lebanon and its sons, and because the national solution is the only possible and safe solution which will ensure stability for all. Based on this clear view, Syria continues to help Lebanon overcome its crisis in the same spirit of sacrifice and loyalty known in the past difficult years.

The newspaper TISHRIN tackles the same subject but from a different angle. It says the Lebanese arena is witnessing two initiatives to entrench government authority. The first initiative seeks to strengthen the role of the legitimate army to enable it to carry out its national role, while the second one emphasizes that al-Ta'if agreement is the only framework to establish the pan-Arab state.

TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that the Syrian Arab Forces' role in West Beirut and the suburbs, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese, is a continuation of the first initiative which aims at unifying Lebanon—land, people and institutions.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey

WA1906124290

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Turkey, please see the Turkey section of the 18 June West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Afghanistan

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Meets 'Abawi

LD1606192990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Dr. Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirga [People's Assembly] met this afternoon at the headquarters of the Wolasi Jirga with the Soviet parliamentary delegation which came to Kabul this morning for an official working visit.

During the meeting, which was attended by His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and representative plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, both sides spoke about the topics of mutual interest, especially on further expansion and deepening of the parliamentary relations between both countries. They stressed the consolidation of friendship between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Dr. Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Sena [Senate] of Meli Shura [National Assembly] met this afternoon in his office with the Soviet parliamentary delegation.

During the meeting, which was held in the presence of His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and representative plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, the chairman of Sena gave detailed information on the gains of the Republic of Afghanistan in the national and international arena, the successful holding of Jawza Loya Jirga [May Grand National Assembly] and other new transformations in the country.

Dr. Mahmud Habibi spoke about friendship and cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and about the historical roots of good relations and neighborliness. He stressed the role of both countries' parliaments towards ending war, further expansion of friendship and mutual cooperation in various sections of social life, and towards the release of the Soviet prisoners.

The Soviet side spoke about the role of the parliament towards the settlement of the internal and international conflicts.

Meets With Najibullah

LD1706204290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] This afternoon at the Presidency esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received a USSR parliamentary delegation. During the meeting esteemed Najibullah briefed the Soviet delegation on the necessity for convening during the month of Jawza [22 May-21 June] a Grand Assembly on amendments to the Constitution and on proposing a new political solution to the Afghan problem, and thanked the USSR Supreme Soviet members for the continuing assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan at this sensitive stage in the country's life. In response the delegation thanked the Republic of Afghanistan for its efforts to secure the release of the Soviet POW's from their captivity with the opposition, and expressed their gratification with the new measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan to deepen democracy in the country. The delegation expressed its solidarity on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet with the Republic of Afghanistan's peaceful policy and expressed gratitude for the hospitality of and welcome from the Afghan people and authorities.

The meeting was also attended by State Security Minister Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, and Boris N. Pastukhov, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul.

Received by Prime Minister

LD1806095890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0405 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 17, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister met today with the Soviet parliamentary delegation currently on a working visit here.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the meeting which Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul was also present, Khaliqyar spoke in relation to the mutual assistance existing between the governments and peoples of the two countries and added that the relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union has been transformed into a tradition, the new Afghan government will do its best to further cement these relations, Khaliqyar emphasized.

Khaliqyar assured the Soviet parliamentarians of the efforts of the Afghan Government to release other Soviet prisoners of war currently held by the opposition.

"We feel sorrow and grief of the mothers of the Soviet prisoners of war. Please assure them that our efforts for their release will continue", the Afghan prime minister said.

Pointing out to the Soviet assistance to the republic of Afghanistan, Khaliqyar said that the Soviet economic assistance to the RA will play important role in the rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

During the 12 years of war, Afghanistan suffered much. The Afghan Government intends to obtain international assistance for the rehabilitation of our country, Khaliqyar said. Reciprocally, the Soviet delegation while thanking from the efforts of the Afghan Government for the release of the Soviet prisoners of war promised assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan.

Meets Defense, Interior Ministers

LD1806100490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0411 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 17, BAKHTAR—Army General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defence and Dr. Raz M. Pakteen, minister of interior had separate meetings with Pavel Shetko, chairman of the USSR Committee of the Supreme Soviet and his entourage who has come to Kabul in connection with the Soviet prisoners of war captured by the opposition, reports BAKHTAR military section.

Present at the meeting was B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul. The ministers of defence and interior talked about the efforts of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the release of the Soviet's prisoners of war and gave information regarding the recent developments on military-politico situation to the guest delegation.

Wakil Holds News Conference on Visit to India

LD1506200190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan: As you have heard in the news bulletin 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan who led a delegation from the Republic of Afghanistan to New Delhi to take part in the ninth session of the joint economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of India, returned to Kabul this morning. After arrival at Kabul airport Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abdul Wakil took part in a press conference attended by foreign and domestic journalists. May we draw your attention to the proceedings of this press conference:

[Begin recording] [Wakil] Briefly we can say that successful conclusion of the joint economic cooperation session was a formidable gain in relations between Afghanistan and India. We fortunately reached further positive results and more agreement in relations to bilateral cooperation on which our experts had worked earlier. And in our talks with India's leaders, Prime Minister V.P. Singh and Minister of External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral, and other high-ranking state and political parties, the exchange of views and information were conducted as a whole to the satisfaction of the parties which were [word indistinct] assessed highly. In particular, as the region where India and Afghanistan are located has been exposed to tension due to Pakistan's interference [word indistinct] and intervention in the internal affairs of the countries neighbouring Pakistan has increased. We held talks on the situation in the region, and on the restoration of a durable peace in our region, and on the reduction and removal of tension. All of our attention was centered on the restoration of peace [words indistinct] reduction of tension between the countries of the region.

Of course, as well as these issues we held talks on the further expansion and consolidation of relations and further exchange of views at the higher level. It was agreed that at a suitable time and in the near future esteemed President Najibullah of Afghanistan should visit the Republic of India so that he can have further talks on consolidation and expansion of relations between the two countries and [words indistinct].

In general, what can I say to you [words indistinct] not only has the present Government of India perceived this regarding their support for the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning a solution to the situation inside and around Afghanistan, but we have been satisfied and greatly assured regarding their all-round assistance both in the political area and in various economic, commercial, and cultural areas.

[Unidentified translator] [A question from the] correspondent of Soviet radio: I only have one question. Did you assess the results of talks between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States in Washington? What is your view in this connection?

[Wakil] Of course we briefed and informed our Indian friends, based on the information that we had from our Soviet friends, the results of talks between Gorbachev and Bush in Washington. We talked to our Indian friends, to the extent of our knowledge, about the results of the meeting between the leaders of those two countries, especially in connection with the issue of Afghanistan. I think that what our Indian friends were interested in and were laying emphasis on were the principles of a political solution, the issue of dialogue among the Afghans themselves by taking into account the present realities of Afghan society. This was certainly one of the results of the talks between leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Translator] [A question from the] BBC correspondent: Your Excellency, at the begining of your trip you spoke about a regional conference on Afghanistan and the role of India. Did you discuss this view with the Indian side, and what sort of shape it has taken?

[Wakil] Yes, we discussed this issue with our Indian friends. We gave them some information and exchanged views that the participants of India, as a neighboring and regional country, is vital and necessary in any type of regional and international conference on the settlement of the issue around Afghanistan. I think we have spoken about this issue in detail and length with various personalities including His Excellency Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and was approved and supported by them. The readiness of the Republic of India to take part in such a conference was strongly expressed.

Of course, with the possibilities that India has both inside and outside its country, and with knowledge it has about credible Afghan personalities both inside and outside the country—as India has always had friendly and very close relations with Afghanistan—they can use their possibilities and resources toward achieving dialogue among the Afghans and the process of finding a comprehensive and complete political solution based on the peace proposals of President Najibullah in order to ensure peace in Afghanistan.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, will you please tell us whether you had any contacts with the representatives of Afghan emigrants in India? If you met them, please tell us about the results.

[Wakil] The aim of our visit was obvious, that is to take part in the ninth session of the joint Afghan-Indian economic and technical cooperation commission. The schedule of meetings, talks, and work was very tight. We only worked toward this direction. However, as were informed by our embassy, a number of Afghan emigrants and a number of credible personalities who live in India expressed the wish to see us. As a first step we have asked our ambassador in India to convey the message that we will hold talks with them at a suitable time. Thank you. [end recording]

Explosives Discovered, Seized in Kabul Province

LD1506171990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The personnel of the anti-crime section, seventh security ward, Sarandoy command of Kabul Province, discovered and seized today over 10 kilograms of trotyl type explosives in the surroundings of the Charasyab district of Kabul Province.

According to the report of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section these explosives which were hidden in a ruined place and prepared to be transferred to Kabul city for shedding the blood of our compatriots, were discovered, neutralized, and moved away on time.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Reported

BK1606162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down a helicopter in (Ribat) area of Ghazni Province while it was strafing mujahidin positions. According to a MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] report, the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses on the Kabul regime forces during an attack in Mohammad Agha District of Lowgar Province. One security post was destroyed, two others badly damaged and 18 Kabul troops were killed during the attack. Twelve troops defected to the mujahidin along with their arms.

Missiles Hit Kabul; Regime Forces Strike 16 Jun

LD1606161590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Extremist elements again fired a number of U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul city. A spokesman of the general command of Kabul garrison told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section that these missiles, fired from west of Kabul city, hit non-residential regions and did not cause any human or material loss.

The spokesman added that the units and subunits of the Armed Forces of Kabul garrison have carried out military operations in the surroundings of Paghman District as a result of which 15 extremists, including two Wahhabi mercenaries, were crushed and their one reactif unit, one ZK-1, two DShks, and an ammunition depot of SAKR [rockets] were destroyed.

Regime Forces Destroy Extremists' Weapons Cache

LD1606173190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] A cache of weapons and ammunitions belonging to the Mawlawi Nabi group which was located on the outskirts of Arghandab District, Qandahar Province, was burned down as a result of a mine explosion.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of this mine, planted by a rival group, a number of guards at this depot, including one Kochi, a ringleader of this group, were killed. Ten rocket launchers, five DShks, two ZK-1's and thousands of rounds of various kinds of ammunition, hand grenades, and antivehicle and antipersonnel mines were set on fire.

Bangladesh

Leader Urges Movement Against 'Negative Politics'

BK1706121090 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Leader of the Opposition A.S.M. Abdur Rab, Saturday [9 June] called for launching a united front movement to defeat the trend of negative politics in the national elections in future, reports BSS.

Mr Rab who is also the Secretary General of the Standing Committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) made the appeal while taking part in the discussion on the political report of the Central Executive Committee on the second day on Saturday at the party office in Dhaka.

Mr Humayun Kabir Hiru, General Secretary of the party presented secretary's report while party president Nur Alam Ziku presided.

The leader of the Opposition said the political situation was changing quickly and there was no point in wasting time.

India

More on Declaration of Independent Jammu-Kashmir

BK1806152690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 18 (AFP)—A leader of the Moslem separatist drive in India-held Kashmir on Monday [18 June] declared an independent state of Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to step up the campaign. Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)—one of several militant groups spearheading the Kashmiri

Moslem campaign for secession from New Delhi—also named an interim government comprising 24 ministers and 16 advisers.

Most significant in the line-up is Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, 16-year-old son and successor of the recently assassinated religious leader of India-held Kashmir, where violence linked to the separatist movement has left more than 600 people dead this year.

The provisional government includes "representatives of all factions engaged in the freedom struggle," Mr. Amanullah Khan told a news conference here.

A president and prime minister "will be elected in due course," he said, adding that he would act as chief spokesman until then. Ministerial portfolios will also come later. [passage omitted]

India Calls Announcement 'Ridiculous'

BK1806161990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 18 (AFP)—India dismissed as ridiculous an announcement by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Leader Amanullah Khan that he had formed a provisional government for an independent state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is something to be ridiculed and ignored, something hardly of any significance," a senior External Affairs Ministry official told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI). He was reacting to reports from Muzaffarabad, capital of the northern third of Kashmir under Pakistan's control, that Mr. Khan—who is wanted in India on murder charges—had announced the independent government earlier Monday [18 June]. New Delhi said Monday it was prepared to hold talks with Islamabad to try to defuse tension over Kashmir, and that the talks could be held at the foreign secretary level early next month.

One of those named in the 24-member government was Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the 16-year-old son and heir of the high priest of India-controlled Kashmir. The late Mirwaiz was killed last month by unknown gunmen in Srinagar. There was no immediate reaction from Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, nor was it clear whether he knew of his appointment.

The United States, China and the European Community as well as the United Nations have expressed fear in the past two months that India and Pakistan could become involved in a fourth war over Kashmir, a strategic northern area divided and disputed by the two countries. Two of India and Pakistan's three wars since independence have been fought over Kashmir.

Kashmiri Militants Fire Rockets on Hotels

BK1906085690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] In Srinagar, two jawans [soldiers] of the security forces were killed and nine injured early this morning, as militants fired rockets on two hotels on the banks of the Dal lake, where the security forces men were camping. The rocket attacks, first of its kind in the Kashmir Valley by the militants, occurred around 0430 this morning.

According to an official spokesman, the sentry of the hotel noted that rockets were fired from a houseboat parked in the Dal lake. The security forces have surrounded the area and have launched an intensive search for the attackers. Some persons have been detained for questioning.

Indian, Pakistani Foreign Secretaries To Meet

BK1806131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan are to meet in the first fortnight of the next month to discuss the proposal on reducing tension on the border. The suggestion made by Islamabad in response to India's proposals has been accepted by New Delhi in spite of the fact that Pakistan's response leaves much to be desired. The venue and the date of the meeting will be decided by the two sides later.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that India's response to Pakistan's suggestion was conveyed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, to the Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Bashir Babar, in New Delhi today.

Maoist Guerrillas Free Six Prisoners Unharmed

BK1806131590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the six persons who were kidnapped by the People's War Group of Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] on Saturday [16 June] were freed unharmed today. The persons were kidnapped at Kamareddi Town of Nizamabad District. Reports say they were taken by the Naxalites to the remote Madigunta Village in the dense forest to discuss, among other things, the return of money collected from farmers by the merchants for the development of market yard.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, who is now convalescing in the United States, has asked the Naxalites to give up violence and come for talks with the state government.

New Punjab Governor Lists Priorities

BK1506033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, has said that his priority is to strive for a political solution to the Punjab problem within the framework of the Constitution. Speaking to newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Chandigarh yesterday evening, he said his doors are open for talks with all those who have faith in the Indian Constitution and the unity and integrity of the country. Mr. Verma urged all religious and political leaders to appeal to the terrorists not to indulge in the killing of innocent persons. He said no religion in the world permits the killing of innocent persons.

The new governor said efforts will be made to effectively seal the border with Pakistan to stop smuggling of weapons and the infiltration of terrorists. Mr. Virendra Verma said he has come to Punjab to serve the people of the state, stop the bloodshed, and apply a healing touch to hurt sentiments of the people.

Commentary Reviews Outcome of Wakil's Visit

BK1606123890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Deepak Goel Commentary on Indo-Afghan relations]

[Text] The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr. 'Abdul Wakil, told newsmen on Wednesday [13 June] that India would always seek even a greater role in any final settlement of the Afghan problem. He was only echoing the sentiments of the traditional ties that have bound the two nations together for centuries and the discussions that Mr. Wakil held with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and others in New Delhi early this week have contributed to further cementing these very bonds of cooperation and friendship.

Under the government of Dr. Najibullah, Afghanistan is now poised for a major political transformation and India believes that this is the time when Afghanistan needs the continued support of friendly countries. The two countries have had a long bilateral relationship that has stood the test of time and the political crisis throughout the 1980's. In the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan India has also lent diplomatic and material support to Afghanistan since the Soviet withdrawal. [as heard]

Besides, there has been a long tradition of Indian assistance to Afghanistan, especially in areas like public health and technology. Indian assistance has included outright grants, training of Afghans in various fields in India, setting up of projects and supply of equipment. The balance of trade, which was earlier in favor of Afghanistan, has shifted in India's favor since 1987. In 1988-89, India exported goods worth 344.4 million rupees and imported fresh and dry fruits and medical herbs and other items worth 165.1 million rupees. But the signing of a protocol on economic, technical, and trade cooperation in New Delhi on Wednesday has opened new vistas with Indian contribution envisaged toward the reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan. The two countries have now decided to extend economic cooperation to setting up joint ventures, and Kabul has shown willingness to consider the import of Indian consumer goods. The Indian assistance will be through an active program involving several ongoing projects in the areas of public health, industrial development, and education geared to the direct benefit of the common man.

The protocol was signed at the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the ninth session of the Indo-Afghan joint commission, which provides the framework for cooperation between the two countries. The commission set up in 1969 held its eighth session in Kabul in 1987. The agenda for the ninth session included a review of the implementation of the decision taken at the eighth session and consideration of further expansion and review of cultural relations. At the New Delhi meeting, several new areas of cooperation were identified in the fields of water and power supply, cartography, telecommunications, tourism, and meteorology. Under the protocol, 35 Indian experts are being deputed shortly to Afghanistan and an Indian delegation of both public and private sectors is expected to visit that country shortly to identify joint ventures and other new forms of cooperation. While India will actively cooperate with Afghanistan to double the level of bilateral trade, Afghanistan has agreed to look into the Indian offers for export of various items, including television sets, sewing machines, razor blades, tractors, milk powder, soaps and detergents. The Indo-Afghan joint business council is expected to meet in New Delhi shortly.

The protocol signed by External Affairs Minister Mr. I.K. Gujral and Mr. Wakil signifies an enhancement in the quality and level of bilateral cooperation. Significant measures are being taken to reinforce technical cooperation arrangements by the two sides undertaking new projects, expanding existing ones, and widening the scope and areas of cooperation. Emphasis has been placed on creation of adequate trained manpower resources in Afghanistan through the deputation of experts and training of Afghan cadres in India in disciplines relevant to Afghanistan's development priority. Both sides have agreed to encourage joint ventures in pharmaceuticals, construction materials, leather, rubber pipes, and water pump sets as part of India's commitment to assist people-related programs. India will also help Afghanistan in the rehabilitation of 1,500 amputees and handicapped persons. At a camp to be held later this year in Kabul, Indian doctors will provide and fix artificial limbs.

Ferrous Metallurgy Protocol Signed With USSR

BK1506150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol for expanding their cooperation in the field of ferrous metallurgy. The protocol was signed in New Delhi by the Soviet first deputy minister for metallurgy, Mr. L.V. Radyukevich, and the secretary of the Steel

Ministry, Mr. R. Venkatanarayanan. The two sides also discussed supply of Soviet equipment for Visakhapatnam and Durgapur steel plants and cooperation between the Indian and Soviet firms.

Economic Cooperation With Vietnam Noted

BK1506042490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] India is helping in a big way to rebuild Vietnam's economy. Though it is a little-known fact, India's mark is evident in almost every aspect of Vietnam's economy. India has set up two jute bag factories in Vietnam at an estimated cost of $10 million and is setting up projects in textiles and lumber. One of the main areas of India-Vietnam economic cooperation is oil exploration. Hydrocarbon India Limited, a subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, joined hands with the Vietnam National Oil and Gas Company in 1988 for offshore oil exploration and exploitation in the South China Sea.

Bombay Police Stop International Drug Gang

BK1506041490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The narcotic cell of Bombay Police has smashed a vital drug smuggling syndicate in Bombay. A total of 36 kg of heroin valued at 36 crore rupees in the international market was seized in the operation. The heroin is believed to have come from an area bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan. Six members of the gang, including two Afghans and one Pakistani, have been arrested. They had been involved in drug smuggling over the last two years and had been on wanted list in India. The DCP [deputy commissioner of police], narcotic cell, in charge of this operation spoke to our correspondent Shobha Rajgopal:

[Begin deputy commissioner recording] Significance of the seizure is that the gang we have arrested is an international one. One of them is a Pakistani; two of them are Afghans. We have seized 32 kg [as heard] of heroin from them. From this gang itself, about 150 kg of heroin was seized earlier, but they have been absconding from the police. With their arrest, a very big international gang of narcotic traffickers has been eliminated. [end recording]

Iran

Al-Musawi Rejects Hostage Talks With Israel

LD1806180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, Abu Hisham, the leader of the Lebanese Islamic Amal movement, declared his opposition to any direct or indirect talks with the Zionist regime on the release of the hostages. According to a report from the Central News Unit, the daily AL-SAFIR, in today's edition, wrote: Abu Hisham asked for clarification on the fate of the four captured Iranian diplomats; and considered the United States and France as directly responsible for pursuing this matter.

Khamene'i Receives Lebanese Delegations 18 Jun

LD1806171590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] A delegation from the assembly of Lebanon's clerics, lead by Shaykh (Ahmad al-Zayyen), the judge of Sidon, and a delegation of the Resistance of the Lebanese Faithful [Moqavemat-e Mo'menin-e Lebanon] held separate meetings and talks this afternoon with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution.

During these meetings, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the great conspiracy by the enemies of Islam. He said: Almighty God has pledged victory to the world's Muslims, and this pledge cannot be altered. Despite extensive efforts by global arrogance, Islam is growing daily in all corners of the Earth, from East to West. Even the enemies of Islam have confessed this fact. They have understood clearly that a powerful, revolutionary, and determined arm, which is the pure Mohammadan Islam, is standing before them.

The guardian of the cause [vali-e amr] of the world's Muslims considered the rejuvenation and spread of Islam in the land of occupied Palestine as an inspirational message for Muslims the world over. He added; Islamic and revolutionary movements always enjoy God's blessing. Doubtless through unity among struggling Muslims all over the world and by their untiring efforts the conspiracies hatched by the United States, the regime occupying Quds, and other world powers will be defeated.

According to the same report, the visitors expressed their condolences on the occasion of the first anniversary of demise of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may God accept him to His paradise. They also stressed the necessity for obeying the orders of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of Muslims. In conclusion, they presented the esteemed leadership of the Islamic revolution with a report on the latest situation in Lebanon.

Paper on Rushdie Decree, Interviews by Officials

NC1806152590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Jun 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "The Issue of Salman Rushdie and the Expression of Needless Opinions"]

[Excerpts] "The imam's decree regarding Salman Rushdie is based on divine verses and like those divine verses, it is firm and irrevocable. The divine decree on this criminal must be implemented."

This clear and overt opinion regarding the apostate author of the book "Satanic Verses," expressed during his address to the people of Mashhad by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, on the occasion of the anniversary of the demise of

His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may the blessings of God be upon him, reaffirms the continuation of the path of the imam in all respects. It is also an indication of the adherence in practice at the highest level of the Islamic Republic's system to the teachings of the founder of this divine system and is a natural phenomenon which is binding on all. [passage omitted]

In this regard, there is a subtle point of immense importance which the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, especially those concerned with foreign policy, should note in particular. This point is that when the policy of the Islamic Republic's system is absolutely clear on important issues, such as the decree on the execution of Salman Rushdie, and there are no doubts, it is not fitting that this or that official should give interviews on this policy here and there from time to time and answer questions by correspondents on the subject.

This measure, in view of the Satanic nature of the Western propaganda apparatus, not only casts aspersions on the Islamic Republic's stance on this issue but also creates more headaches. This was the case with the plethora of opinions on this issue aired by officials of various levels, especially those concerned with foreign policy, in the past few months.

In the latest example of this, remarks on the Salman Rushdie issue by one of the directors general of the Foreign Ministry became a tool in the hands of correspondents who cast aspersions on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the issue, just as the Western media wanted. These correspondents attempted to project the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials are negotiating with Great Britain on the issue of Salman Rushdie!

Even though the inappropriate remarks of this official were refuted by the Foreign Ministry, the advantages that the enemies of Islam and the revolution sought to gain from such propaganda on the issue, especially on the eve of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's anniversary, naturally accrued to them in this manner. If the leader of the Islamic Revolution had not made his clear and categorical exhortations, they would still have been reaping these advantages.

Fortunately, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani elaborated on the issue in a lucid manner in his interview with domestic and foreign correspondents. He announced that the imam's decree on Salman Rushdie remains unchangeable and that the West's insistence in this regard is futile. The restoration of Great Britain's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is subject to London's implementation of the bill adopted by the Islamic Majles.

In view of the clear stance stated above regarding the execution of Salman Rushdie and the conditions for the reestablishment of relations with Great Britain, which have been frequently repeated, why is it that some officials and those connected with the formulating of foreign policy are tempted or continue to give interviews on the subject and air opinions which may generate misunderstandings, or provide grist to the Western and Zionist propaganda mills? This attitude is not limited to the Salman Rushdie issue. Such an effete attitude is also manifest on other issues in the face of the insinuations of foreign correspondents.

It appears, therefore, that the officials, especially those involved in foreign policy, should bear the two following points in mind:

First, in important matters on which the higher echelons of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Majles have expressed their opinions and have voted and reached a decision, they should state the same decision verbatim without adding anything themselves, if they are questioned.

Second, on principle, a profusion of opinions and interviews is not appropriate, especially when the Western propaganda machinery is constantly seeking to distort the utterances of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For this reason it is better if the esteemed officials limit their remarks on all subjects to a minimum and do not provide any pretext for misinterpretation to those seeking to capitalize on them.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stresses Expanding Libya Ties

LD1906124590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Before leaving for his post, the Islamic Republic of Iran's new ambassador to the Arabian Jamahiriya of Libya was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. At the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave the necessary guidance and stressed the need for moves to further expand ties between the two countries.

Papers Condemn Turkey's 'Anti-Islamic' Moves

LD1806104790 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Two morning dailies Monday condemned recent screening of anti-Islamic American film in Turkey which is an insult on Islamic sanctities.

In an editorial 'ABRAR' noted that the Turkish Government, unable to make the Turkish Muslims to abandon their commitment to Islam, has now resorted to the same means the West has deployed against the ever-increasing spread of Islam. "Massive protest of the Turkish Muslims against Saudi reduction of the number of the Turkish Hajj pilgrims and wearing Islamic hijab in public, especially in universities by Muslim women are indications of revitalization of Islam in Turkey", said the article.

Moreover, it added, the Turkish Government has recently launched an all-out effort to establish closer ties with the Zionist regime in political and economic fields.

"Therefore", the editorial stressed "Establishment of strong ties with the Zionist regime, joining the European Economic Community, and remaining a U.S. base in the region all impel Ankara to implement policies decitated [as received] by the West."

The paper concluded by arguing whether the Turkish Government in the absence of support by the Turkish Muslims could remain a stable government both inside the country and in the Muslim-populated Middle East region.

Commenting on the same subject, 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that in the light of the promotion of the Islamic movement in Turkey, screening of such films could be interpreted as a means to divert the public opinion in Turkey from the major events taking shape in the country.

In a commentary titled: "What goal is the Turkish Government pursuing?", the article referred to the recent protest demonstration of Turkish Muslims against this year's Saudi Hajj pilgrims quota and said that this is one of the major events that the government is trying to distract the public opinion from its magnitude. The paper wrote that in a bid to attract Western support and please the West, Turkey occasionally embarks on acts af insulting Islamic values, imposing restrictions on Muslims and displaying anti-Islamic books and films. Therefore, the paper concluded, showing of the film in the present juncture is not accidental, stressing that the Turkish statesmen could explain the objective behind such measures.

PTT Minister Receives Omani Counterpart

LD1806115990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Oman's minister of posts, telegraph and telephones [PTT] who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation, met with PTT Minister Qarazi this morning. During the first round of talks, describing our country's postal and communication facilities and technical, technological, and service achievements during the past few years, Mr Qarazi declared the PTT ministry's readiness to provide Oman with technical and training expert services.

During the meeting the two sides discussed the use of underwater fiber-optics cables between the two countries.

Va'ezi Departs for Talks in Denmark 17 Jun

LD1706203890 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi left for Copenhagen at the head of delegation Sunday [17 June]. During his stay in Denmark, Va'ezi is to hold talks with Danish officials on bilateral relations in political, economic and cultural fields, regional issues and the latest developments in Europe.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves For Havana

LD1406201590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] An Iranian parliamentary delegation left Tehran for Havana, Cuba, where it will hold dialogues with Cuban authorities on the expansion of parliamentary exchanges between the two countries. The Iranian delegation is led by Mr. Ahmad 'Azizi, the secretary to the Majles inter-parliamentary group. The promotion of bilateral ties will also be touched upon during the talks.

Velayati Receives Pakistani Shiite Leader

LD1306231790 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—Leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites met here today with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Hojjat ol-Eslam Sajid Naqavi hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran as the vigor of the Muslim world, and said, "We are ready for any devotion to strengthen the might of the Muslims." Naqavi said that Wahhabi agents in Pakistan backed by the foreign sources were extensively propagating against the Shi'ites to divide Pakistani Muslims and weaken the true Islam. He also expressed concern over the continuation of the brutal acts of the Indian government in killing Kashmiri Muslims.

Velayati referred to the plots of the enemies of islam and stressed the need for the unification of the Muslims and further cooperation between the Muslims of the region, Iranian and Pakistani Muslims in particular.

Naqavi arrived here on the occasion of the first demise anniversary of the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni. He is also attending a seminar held here to study the thoughts of the martyr leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites 'Allamah Arif Husayni.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Zambian Envoy 10 Jun

LD1006124890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. (Kalengwa Kangwa), the accredited Zambian ambassador to Tehran.

The accredited Zambian ambassador conveyed warm greetings from Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian president, and salutations from the people of Zambia, and presented his credentials. Referring to the existing vast grounds for cooperation between the two countries, he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand in declaring support for the struggles of the people of South Africa and Namibia.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then conveyed his reciprocal greetings to Mr. Kaunda, the Zambian president, and stressed the common international policies, particularly those concerning southern Africa. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its very good relations with the frontline countries and to the developments recently evolving in Africa, is interested in striving toward easing the African governments' problems through cooperation with them.

Our country's president also placed emphasis on following up and implementing the joint agreements between the two countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tours Khorasan Province

LD1506230390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Continuing his visit to Khorasan Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation today visited the towns of Quchan, Shirvan, and Bojnurd. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his delegation arrived in Quchan before noon today, and were warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by the townspeople and officials. In between Quchan's two Friday prayer sermons, the president stressed the fact that the people's selflessness and trust rejuvenated the officials and gave them a sense of responsibility. He said: The town of Quchan and the Khorasan region boast a particular sensitivity because of the developments in our country's northern neighbor. It will have a role as an axis of the revolution for transferring Islamic ideas and can become a center of world attention.

Referring to the plentiful resourches God has bestowed on the land of Khorasan, he said: Lack of exploitation of these resources and blessings by the previous regime was a consequence of their wrong policies and one of that regime's treacheries against the country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that during the 10-year plan for the reconstruction of Khorasan Province which, as a result of the blessed presence of His Holiness Imam 'Ali Bin-Musa al-Reza [buried in Mashhad]—may God's peace be upon him—is also a focus of attention for the Islamic world, will benefit from extensive development. The revolution has prepared the ground for that development. [passage omitted]

According to the report, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation arrived in the town of Shirvan this afternoon, and was warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by the local residents and officials. [passage omitted]

After visiting the towns of Quchan and Shirvan, the president arrived in the town of Bojnurd. He spoke at a gathering of the town's enthusiastic people at the gravesides of martyrs.

Speaks to Bojnurd People

NC1606073790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Continuing their visit to Khorasan Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Bojnurd yesterday afternoon and were warmly greeted by the people, the Friday imam, and other city officials. Our correspondent reports that various groups of Bojnurd people extended an unprecedented welcome, and in addition to their presence at the cemetery of martyrs, they gathered along the route used by the president and sacrified dozens of sheep.

After arriving at the cemetery yesterday afternoon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid his tributes to the Sunni and Shi'ite martyrs and then spoke to a large gathering of the city's residents pointing out that the path of the martyrs, which is also the path of Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, will be completely traversed and that their aspirations will be fulfilled in society.

Expressing gratitude for the people's harmony and concordance with the officials, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Such scenes are unprecedented in the world. The president added: The world lauds a nation which has stood for 11 years on its own feet and has created so many glorious scenes with its resistance to the East, the West, and Zionism.

In continuation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the water and mineral resources of Khorasan Province and the problems with which the people of the region were afflicted with under the past regime. He expressed hope that the necessary efforts will be made during the reconstruction period for using the country's resources. He added: If in this country—that is, in the center of Islam—we are unable to mitigate deprivations, to use blessings, and to develop lands, this will be the same as blasphemy.

Addressing the people, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: The country's administrative policy, the government, and the resources are all in your—the people's—hands, and there is nothing sweeter for the country's administration than to provide for your—the nation's—life on the basis of Imam Khomeyni's directives.

The report states that the president and the delegation accompanying him went to the administrative council of Bojnurd and were briefed by the administrative officials of the city, after which the necessary directives were issued on various issues.

Addresses Esfarayen Meeting

LD1606123890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Continuing his visit to Khorasan province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the accompanying delegation arrived in Esfarayen this morning and took part in a gathering of the people of that town and thanked the people of Esfarayen for their pure emotions. He emphasized the importance of the people's requests and the necessity for provision of industrial and economic establishments and facilities. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that necessary allocations have been made for construction of a dam, the establishment of a foundry, and the creation of Esfarayen's industrial foundation in this year's budget and the country's Five-Year Plan.

In connection with the region's potential economic resources, the president said: In the past two days I have achieved a close understanding of the region north of Khorasan. I have a favorable assessment of that region's future and I am quite sure that one of the country's development areas is in that same region. Because from the point of view of natural resources, there are enough God-given resources in that region and the country's conditions require that attention to be paid to suitable regions, wherever they may be.

Pointing to the strategic importance of provision of foodstuffs in the country's independence and noting the country's need to import of foodstuffs, Mr.Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This region has no water shortages; the land is fit for agriculture and the people are also hard-working and have a great deal of energy for using the region's potential resources.

The president and the accompanying delegation this morning, before arriving in Esfarayen, met the people of the Turkman-inhabited border region of Jargaran.

Views USSR Developments

LD1606133690 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Shirvan (Khorasan), June 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday [15 June] warned suppressive regional governments that a fate similar to that of the toppled shah would befall them. The president was addressing a large Friday prayer congregation in this northeastern town on the second day of his tour of Khorasan. He noted that in the contemporary world which is proceeding towards the "rule of the people", the most sincere sentiments are being reflected in Muslims including those in Kashmir, Pakistan and Algeria.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also pointed to the recent developments in the Soviet Union and said, that in a country where the so-called rule of the workers spanned 70 years, "a man rose up and pulled down the iron curtains." By doing so, said the president, he (Mikhail Gorbachev) enabled the Soviet people to establish contacts with the outside world "and the world realized that being democratic was a mere lie."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was confident that the Islamic revolution will soon reach the point that if other states wished to select an examplary path, they could take the Iranian Muslims as a model.

Urges Public To Assist Officials

LD1606195490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation visited the Raz and Jargalan border regions near Bojnurd this morning in continuation of their visit to Khorasan Province. The president entered the village to an enthusiastic welcome by the Pish-Qal'eh region's residents. In his speech he asked the people of the region to assist officials towards the realization of the government's aims and ideals for the welfare of the people and the country.

The president then referred to the issue of water for farming in the village and said: today, your servants [government officials] are determined to prevent water waste in the region.

[Announcer] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the delegation accompanying him also visited the underprivileged areas of Baqloq in the vicinity of Bojnurd this morning. In a gathering of the region's border residents, he said: the deep loyalty of you border residents is a source of pride for officials and the nation.

During the president's visit to the Baqloq region, the residents of which are Turkman and Sunni compatriots, Haj Mus'ud Akhond-Yazdani, one of the region's prominent clergymen, welcomed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation and recited some of his own poetry.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed gratitude for the sincere sentiments of the Turkman brothers and sisters and described them as the border guards of the country of the prophet of Islam, may god's peace be upon him and his scion, and added: The source of all these sentiments is your respect for Islam. You can see that, after years of being governed by blasphemy, this country is now in the hands of Islam.

The president said that the mutual sympathy and cooperation between Sunnis and Shi'ites was pride-inspiring and he thanked them for their coordination with the selfless members of Construction Jihad and the country's officials.

The president then said: Soon cultural and Islamic ties will be established with the other side of the border, which has been governed by blasphemy and terror for years, and your region must be presentable and splendid enough as to be worthy of the revolution and you selfless people. [passage omitted]

Speaks on Establishing 'Rule of Islam'

LD1606201190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Correspondent's report from Sabzevar]

[Excerpts] This evening, the president and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Sebzevar to see the people and visit the region. They were warmly received by the people of Sabzevar and were officially welcomed. [passage omitted]

Moved by the people's sentiments, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the sacrifices made by the people of Sabzevar in the course of the revoluion and afterwards and said: When I am confronted with a sea of such waves of sentiment, I feel ashamed and think that these words are not for a specific person but that the people express kindness towards us because we are serving the revolution and the path of the Imam.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to recent developments in Islamic countries and to the efforts of Muslims for establishing the rule of Islam and expressed the hope that the torch would continue to shine and would become brighter by the day. He ended his remarks in the gathering of Sabzevar residents by expressing his agreement for the implementation of the project for the completion of the region's irrigation network. [passage omitted]

Addresses Villagers, Townsfolk

LD1706133290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Continuing his trip to Khorasan Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in the village of Sham-abad, near Sabzevar, this morning. At a gathering of the villagers, he expressed praise and gratitude to a village which has given 76 martyrs, POW's, MIA's and selfless devotees [war-disabled] to the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

After leaving the village, the president and his accompanying delegation arrived in Neyshabur before noon. On the way, they visited the grave of Sheykh 'Attar Neyshaburi and then joined a gathering of Neyshaburi residents in the town's stadium to meet and talk to the people. Our correspondent reports from Mashhad on the president's remarks at the gathering of Neyshabur's residents:

[Begin correspondent recording] Continuing their trip to Khorasan Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the town of Neyshabur this morning. They were officially welcomed by the Friday prayers imam, the governor, the Majles deputies of the people of Neyshabur, administrative officials and various strata of the townspeople. [passage omitted]

In a speech, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for the townspeople's precious sentiments. He said: Like the welcome given by the people of Neyshabur to His Holiness Reza—God's peace be upon him—on his arrival in this town, which is mentioned in history, your presence today is praiseworthy. In all fairness, in the province of Khorasan, the revolution is thriving and flourishing and the people of the province are currently on the stage even more, if anything, than during the period of revolution and war; and this welcome and these sentiments are not for a specific person but for Islam, the Koran, and allegiance to the voice of the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds. [passage omitted]

Our country's president then referred to his trip to the northern towns of Khorasan, and said the trip had been heart-warming. He added: There were consultations with officials, specialists, and consultants and the information they provided was hope-inspiring. The province of Khorasan has the potential for everything, but shortages and lack of facilities have prevented the optimum use of that potential thus far; more machinery and skilled forces are needed for our country's reconstruction. [end recording]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to Neyshabur's industrial dimension and said: The industries which are being looked at in this town rank among our country's necessary resources, and Neyshabur can take long strides toward the country's construction and the fulfilment of potentials. The president called for the people's cooperation and assistance in resolving problems, and for the correct and scientific use of national resources and reserves. Referring to the role of cultural work in the society, he addessed young people, saying: Young people, who form a large part of our country's population, can help and assist the government in the task of establishing cultural and sports centers. And we hope that, after the Five-Year Plan period of reconstruction, our people will see marked progress in the country's affairs.

Hears Sabzevar Officials' Reports

LD1706222790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The town council of the Sabzevar held a session last night in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation. According to the Central News Unit, in this session which was also attended by the governor of Khorasan, the Friday imam of Sabzevar, Majles deputies from Sabzevar, a number of Khorasan Province's and Sabzevar's local government officials, first, the governor of Sabzevar, presented a report on the geosocial, cultural-economic situation and the problems and deprivations of that township and requested that colleges devoted to the study of medecine, dentistry, pharmaceutical sciences and agricultural training, be established in the township of Sabzevar.

Next, the director general of the plan and budget department of the Province of Khorasan submitted a report on the planning methods of that province, bearing in mind the various characteristics specific to Khorasan Province.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasizing again the government's concern about the province of Khorasan, said: Officials and those involved in the affairs of that province should use their initiatives, sympathies and full coordinating capabilities. The president added: The government has given priority, in so far as executive programs are concerned, to factories that are ready but lack primary material or parts, over projects that are only half completed.

Speaks to Mashhad University Students

NC1806061290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to a gathering of students of universities in Mashhad at the Hall of Holy Shrines of the Imam Reza Shrine and emphasized: Our objective is the rule of Islam for which we need an independent society and everyone should do his best toward this end. Pointing out that without an independent society the Islamic ideals cannot be fulfilled, the president said: Independence is among the pillars needed to form Islamic rule. We want the country's independence. But we should not think that we can run the country with slogans.

Stating that there is no independent country like Iran in the world, he said that it is the duty of the universities to ensure this independence in the scientific, technical, and economic fields now and in the future.

Stressing that the main duty of the students is to prepare themselves for the management of the country and to strive to make scientific and specialized achievements, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the students: We too will be with you in this effort. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then pointed to the need for specialization, especially in the fields of maritime industry, gas, oil, and petrochemistry and added: We should bring about a change in all the country's economic and scientific aspects so that we can say what we have to say in the world.

In another part of his speech, the president described the country's economic conditions and said: The most important base in the country is the valayat-e faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult] and true independence can be gained only through obedience to the leadership. The president also called on the country's planners to pay serious attention to increasing employment possibilities.

Stresses Ties With Soviet Muslims

LD1806114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] At the end of his five-day trip to Khorasan Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani took part in a press conference in Mashhad this morning. Describing the results of his trip to Khorasan and future cultural and economic programs for the region, he answered reporters' questions.

According to our reporter, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considers the Province of Khorasan to be very rich in natural resources and the north of the province to be suitable for farming. He said: Water wastage and the shortage of good link roads has kept this fertile region poor and, according to reports presented by the relevant authorities, only about 30 percent of the region's water resources are used while the other 70 percent are lost through evaporation or in other ways. If we can water the region by drops and using rain, the 70 percent being lost can be used to increase production [sentence as heard]. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the importance of agricultural research, and described the research activities of the Jihad Research Center in Bojnurd's Sisab as very useful. He called on all specialists and researchers to study and conduct research into the matter.

The president then expressed gratitude for the overwhelming sentiments of the people of Khorasan during his trip. In connection with the establishment of contact with the eastern Soviet republics with Muslim populations, he noted: We are ready and we have prepared the groundwork so that the exchange of goods and contacts between people can take place. We want to have links with our Muslim brothers and sisters. They, too, want that and the Soviet Union is currently cooperating. I am pleased about the progress being made in this regard. Khorasan must prepare itself for the link.

During the press conference, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also answered reporters' questions about the battle against drugs; matters relating to Security Council resolution 598; Iraq's letters to Iran; and the aims of the country's Five-Year Plan.

At the end of their five-day trip to Khorasan province, the president and his accompanying delegation left Mashhad for Tehran today. They were officially seen off by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] and custodian of the Razavi holy sanctuary; Khorasan's governor-general; and several of Khorasan province's Majles deputies and officials. They arrived in Tehran before noon.

Judiciary Chief Delivers Friday Prayers 15 Jun

LD1506125890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Muslim compatriots throughout the country attended the religious-political rituals of Friday prayers today. The people of Tehran too arrived at Tehran University and its adjacent streets and performed this Muhammadan tradition under the imamate of Ayatollah Yazdi. In the second prayer sermon, the head of the judicial power, referred to the people's extensive and cohesive participation at the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the heartrending demise of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran as proof of the stability of Iran's system and continuation of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's path and line—may God Almighty be satisfied with his deeds. He said: Our people, through their cohesive participation at these ceremonies, have for the umpteenth time shown the world that their belief in Islam, the system, and the imam and their presence on the scene form the main foundations of Iran's system.

Referring to the upcoming anniversary of martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr. Behashti and other disciples of the imam on 28 June, the head of the judicial power said: In order to honor the memory of the 28 June martyrs, the period from 22 to 28 June is named Justice Week [anniversary of the explosion in the Islamic Republic Party Headquarters killing Behashti and about 72 others]. And during this week efforts will be undertaken with the cooperation of the headquarters in charge of honoring the 28 June ceremonies, the Voice and Vision, and the mass media so as to make the people familiar with the judicial system, implementation of justice and retribution, and executive programs of the judicial system in various fields.

Referring to the victory of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front in that country's municipal and local elections and the concern that this victory has created in the arrogant world, the interim Friday imam of Tehran said: Although these were only some local elections in Algeria, the arrogant world nevertheless has realized that today's Muslims all over the world are different from the Muslims of yesterday. It knows what would happen to it if over 1 billion Muslims all over the world were to enter the arena in order to gain their right. For this reason it is justified to be concerned.

The head of the judicial power went on: When the Muslims of Turkey stage marches to demonstrate their opposition to the law, which bans women with Islamic dress from entering universities, this means the Muslims have entered the political arenas and are announcing their opposition to the idea that religion should be separate from politics. [passage omitted]

Calls for Unity

NC1506170290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1122 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Yazdi in Arabic in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Muslim brothers and sisters: By looking at the list of problems in the Islamic world and pondering their importance, it becomes clear to us that the questions of Palestine, Lebanon, and Aghanistan are the most important of them. Then comes the issues of Kashmir, Muslim minorities in secular countries, and countries where Muslims constitute more than 90 percent of the population but whose governments and laws are not compatible with Islam. Then there are the countries that live under the slogan of Islam but are subjugated to the hegemony of blasphemy and arrogance, follow either the East or West, claim to be independent, and not only implement the policies imposed on them but also propagate non-Islamic culture and traditions. A look at the list of the Muslims' problems shakes the conscience. More than a billion Muslim live in the rich areas of Asia, Europe, and Africa but suffer from hunger, deprivation, and removal from Islamic culture as a result of the direct and indirect hegemony of arrogance. The road for solutions to these questions is long and arduous.

But the most important issues are those of usurped Palestine and afflicted Lebanon. Hence, we must extend all possible help to the valiant strugglers in Palestine until the land and dignity are retrieved and Palestinians can live in a bright Islamic society. There are dozens of other issues, such as the plot of the "Satanic Verses" book in Britain, the book recently published in Bangladesh, pilgrimage to God's holy house and banning Muslims from performing it, and the inefficient administration of the the two holy mosques which has been inposed by the Al Sa'ud rulers.

Muslim brothers and sisters; Unity, o Muslims, is the key to solving our problems; the key to ending our agonies. This is followed by self-reliance and by knowing true Islam that Prophet Muhammad, God's peace be on him and his family, preached with the grace of God, and as reported in the holy Koran and which guided God's followers and the believers. Infidels and atheists can do no harm to Muslims if the latter get to know the pure and gratifying Islam and program their lives on it.

In our world where everyone is claiming to defend freedom and democracy, we see Muslims clashing with their governments while performing their duties. Shame and disgrace on all the governments that ban Muslim women from wearing the veil in universities, contrary to what God Almighty says in his holy book. Is it acceptable in countries where Muslims constitute the overwhelming majority that believers demand their right to implement sharia laws and to repeal anti-Islamic ones through demonstrations and other means that are familiar to the West? Islam is the basis and non-Islamic laws are null and void in Muslim countries. Governments have no right to enact laws that contradict the noble principles of Islam, to repress the natural rights of Muslims, or to spread what is forbidden among nations.

Muslim brothers and sisters. We must unite the ranks for the sake of restoring Islam's glory and power. We must look back on ourselves and apply what Islam and the Koran say, so that God almighty will help us and so as to return to the dignified and good life, God willing. I ask God's forgiveness for myself and for you.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. To thee have We granted the fount (of abundance). Therefore to thy Lord turn in prayer and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee, He will be cut off (from future hope). [Koranic verse]

Paper Urges Protection of Khomeyni's Legacy

NC1406161990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Responsibility of the Imam's Heirs"]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow is the first anniversary of the demise of the great standard-bearer of the world movement of Islam, Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul. It is the day on which the world of Islam was plunged into mourning because of the loss of a great peacemaker, a glorious torchbearer, and a popular leader; and at the scene of the funeral the nation showed with its thunderous rage that even though he is no longer with us, nevertheless his directives will always light our path and lead us through difficulties toward the future. [passage omitted]

Today Khomeyni is not among us. But the system of the Islamic Republic as the only divine system of rule in the contemporary world has been handed down as the "great legacy" of that dear one to his followers.

The followers of Khomeyni have two paths to choose from. They can either be "protectors of the legacy," picking up the splendid banner of the world movement of Islam with their able hands, and advancing in the hope of the victory of the oppressed, or they can be "legacy devourers" and shamelessly exploit the gains of the revolution only for their own benefit and leave the future of the revolution to be dictated by events.

The nation has shown that it belongs to the first group. Therefore it should display the necessary boldness and decisiveness and reject those who may be tempted into "devouring the legacy."

The events of the past year have proven to everyone that the "protectors of the legacy"—that is, the brave nation and the revolutionary forces—are alert. But not even one moment of negligence can be afforded in crushing and setting aside the "legacy-devourers"—who were not interested in this revolution from the very beginning anyway—because the enemy has been critically wounded and is lying in wait.

*RESALAT Report on 8 May Majles Session

90AS0081A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 90 pp 5, 9

[Text]

A Note to the Readers

As you may have noticed, for the past few days the format of the Legal and Majles page, as well as the reports on the public Majles sessions have changed. Contrary to the past, when reports were presented uniformly and only according to the time sequence of their occurrence (introduction, pre-agenda speeches, and details of the discussions), in the present format each pre-agenda speech and the report on the legislation and agenda contents appear independently because the time sequence is not important, and monotony of the past format is avoided in the present format. This change in reporting the Majles proceedings is an experiment and we hope to receive your input to assist us in choosing the past, present, or any other suitable format.

Legal and Majles Department

The Majles Leadership Council Approved Convening a Conference To Study Ways To Secure the Rights of the Oppressed Nation of Palestine

Legal and Majles Department:

During yesterday's public Majles session, the double urgency proposal to support the Palestinian Islamic revolution was discussed. In this session, after Mr. Bahonar's (one of the sponsors) speech, Messrs. Khalkhali and Kheyrkhah spoke respectively in opposition and support of the proposal. Voting followed, and the proposal was approved in general. In this session, some of the representatives asked that the proposal be delayed for three months. Following explanations by Mr. Hadi Ghaffari (one of the sponsors), Messrs. Akrami and Saleh-Abadi spoke respectively in opposition and support of the delay. The suggestion for delay was put to a vote and failed to pass. The details of the proposal were studied next, and the following articles were approved:

Article 1: The land of Palestine has belonged and continues to belong to the Palestinians, and the occupier regime in Jerusalem, the usurper Zionist government, which has gained dominance over that land and Jerusalem through oppression, tyranny, mass murder, and treachery, is condemned, tyrannical, and oppressive. All just individuals and nations in the world, especially Muslims and more particularly the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran must support and defend the oppressed and homeless combatants of Palestine in any way possible until they regain their due rights. The Majles leadership is charged with the duty of strengthening and expanding such support and urgently convening a conference of representatives of Islamic countries and experts for this purpose.

Article 2: The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran may establish a fund for humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine and collect contributions by Muslims and other freedom-loving people of the world and spend the proceeds for the support of Palestinian refugees and the oppressed combatants of the land of Palestine (intifadah [uprising]).

Article 3: With permission from the vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims and Helal-e Ahmar [Islamic Red Cross] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Martyrs Foundation and the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificing Devotees of the Islamic Revolution, must provide as much spiritual and material support as they can for the families of martyrs, self-sacrificing devotees, captives, and the missing in Palestine and the occupied territories as well as martyrs from other parts of the world who are martyred for the freedom of Palestine.

Memos from the Representatives to the Nations Executive Officials

- Dr. Sheybani, Representative from Tehran:

To the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, about the establishment of a hotel in Bakhtaran.

To the minister of health and treatment, about the completion of Dr. Mohammad Kermanshahi Hospital with the cooperation of Owqaf [the administration in charge of religious endowments], the Ministry of Petroleum, and the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Khodanazar Qasemi, Representative of Dashtestan:

To the minister of health and treatment, about the need for serious action regarding health services in the city of Dashtestan and the assignment of a surgeon for the hospital in Borazjan.

Mr. Hashem Hejazi, Representative from Khoy:

To the minister of energy, about the establishment of a one-thousand megawatt power plant in Khoy.

Twelve Representatives from Mazandaran:

To the interior minister, about upgrading the Chalus and Neka districts to townships.

Four Representatives of Khuzestan:

To the minister of agriculture, about the supply of nakh-e derowgar [reaper thread?] to the farmers of Khuzestan province.

Statements of Chabahar's Representative Regarding Problems in His District

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. 'Abdolaziz Dadgar, from the electoral district of Chabahar. He began his speech by offering praise to the graceful spirit of his holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him); he renewed his pledge to remain faithful to the ideals of the Imam (peace be upon upon him), ideals that restored the culture of holy Jihad [holy war] and excellence of martyrdom; and he renewed his oath of allegiance with the Supreme Leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. He continued and said: I thank the Supreme Leader for sending a representative to Chabahar to look into the situation of the flood victims, and I thank the honorable President, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his trip to the most deprived and remote parts of the city of Chabahar to look into the problems faced by the people who, during the oppressive regime of the Shah, were not allowed to meet even with junior government officers. I hope such beneficial trips by the authorities of the Islamic Republic to the deprived regions of the country will continue so that the honorable authorities may become closely familiar with the problems faced by the people who were oppressed by the previous regime and deserve favorable treatment.

He then mentioned some of the needs of his district as follows and invited the authorities' careful consideration:

1. Necessary preparations for the establishment of residential and harbor facilities to make Chabahar a free commercial port.
2. The opening of a water treatment facilities in the city of Chabahar to supply drinking water, expected for years by the deprived people of Chabahar.
3. Provision of four graders for repairing earthen dams and water canals that have been damaged in the recent flood and to help save millions of cubic meters of water, which is currently wasted as it flows into the Gulf of Oman. I should remind you that the farmers in the district are not able to carry out this task on their own, but it can be done if the necessary equipment are provided to them at favorable rental terms.
4. Provision of at least 100 tractors, in addition to the one hundred allocated previously, to meet some of the needs of the farmers in the district.
5. Feasibility studies for the removal of sediment from Kajo river in Dashtyari district because the overflowing of water has caused floods and damaged the farms in the district.
6. Construction of a dam on Kajo-Kohrozabad river to revitalize the agriculture in the area and prevent the irregular migrations and the development of poor shantytowns [halabi abad] in the area.
7. Payment of damages to the farmers in the area who lost their crops and everything they had in last year's flood. Repair of the subterranean canals needs special attention.
8. Feasibility studies to build a road between Nik-Shahr and Chabahar.
9. Opening the hospitals in Kenarak and Nik-Shahr and the health clinics in Komeyl and Pir-Sohrab which have been completed in construction and with little effort can start operation.
10. Assignment of an ophthalmologist and an orthopedist to the hospital in Chabahar because for years such specialties have been missing there.

Majles Representative from Iranshahr Criticizes Latest Redistricting of the Country

Mr. Molazehi, the deputy from Iranshahr, was the second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He referred to the issue of the hostages in Lebanon and said: Following the Islamic teachings which form the foundation of the Islamic government of Iran and despite the fact that Muslims are captive in the hands of agents of the self-aggrandizers [the United States] in occupied Palestine and the Phalangist puppets in Lebanon, the government tried hard for the freedom of foreign hostages who were foreign paid agents in the Islamic land of Lebanon, and as a result of these serious efforts which were made through the Muslims in Lebanon, two spies were freed. Unfortunately, because of the evil-nature of the self-aggrandizing U. S. government, and the fruitless stubbornness of the occupier government in Jerusalem, the Muslim captives are not freed and we are astonished at the [inaction] of so-called human rights, human loving, and other pompous international organizations. It is necessary that the honorable minister of foreign affairs reveals this important development to the freedom-loving nations of the world and to make public throughout the world the hostile nature of the self-aggrandizing U.S. government and its foolish agents.

He then criticized the redistricting in Iranshahr and said: Some of the redistricting in the country, which was initiated by the honorable government of the Islamic Republic and was carried out by the Interior Ministry, has become a serious matter of discussion among the people. Based on the reports, some of the redistricting has been very satisfactory, but in my electoral district it has been a cause of concern rather than satisfaction. The Interior Ministry, without regard for the social, economic, and geographic conditions of the area, has redistricted the area in a strange way and created a township next to my electoral district. Of course, I am grateful for the creation of the township of Nik-Shahr which was necessary to happen. But it seems that the Interior Ministry has administered a cure which is worse than the disease. What use is there in including Iranshahr's Fanoj and Lashar divisions into another district when the closest town to them in the new district is a five to six hour drive away on dirt-roads? Some of the dear residents of Madanchi and Kiji...talked to me by phone last night and said it is laughable that they consider us residents of this town although we are closer to Kahnoj. What is the distance between Kahnoj and those areas? What is this inhumanity? When someone breaks another person's heart, he can not rest comfortably because of the hurt he has inflicted. You have broken the hearts of the people in a great region and the people are very distressed. How can you rest comfortably? I am very grateful to Mr.

Hashemi, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for his response to my objection about the imposition carried out by the Interior Ministry, but unfortunately no response has been forthcoming from Mr. Nuri. Generally speaking, why aren't the representatives, who have been elected by the people to the Majles and are familiar with their native districts, consulted about the problems. I should remind them that when the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduces his ministers to the Majles, the ministers are confirmed or rejected by the representatives. Don't you think these same representatives deserve to be at least consulted? If I had been consulted for one moment about this important matter of forcibly removing Valashar, you would not have broken the people's hearts. They [authorities of the Interior Ministry] are wondering why the people don't complain. The people are dedicated to the system and give their lives for it and consider your unkindness to be the result of your lack of experience. Mr. Nuri! Honorable interior minister: Let your blessings reach us for once. I spoke to Mr. Hojjati on the phone and asked him about the claim by the authority in charge of redistricting who had said that the governor-general has given his opinion. He [the governor-general] said that he is new in his assignment and is not familiar with the matter. I have evidence to present about the fact that the office of the governor-general on two occasions and the Interior Ministry a few times announced that these divisions will remain within the jurisdiction of Iranshahr's governorship. They [authorities of the Interior Ministry] claim that the governor-general's office gave its [favorable] opinion which was accepted. Why is it that when the governor-general's office asked for the center of Bampor division—which is one of the oldest, most important, and most populace divisions of Iranshahr—to become a municipality and presented documents and sufficient explanation to that end, the Interior Ministry responded negatively, but regarding this matter [redistricting] the opinion of the governor-general (who didn't really give his opinion) is considered the revelation [of God] and is put into action?

Mr. Molazehi added: I express my own dissatisfaction and that of the people of my electoral district, especially the divisions concerned, and request from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government and particularly my esteemed brother Haj Aqa Nuri, who was himself in the Majles with us previously and is aware of the problems which representatives face, to reconsider this matter and allow me to offer a just solution so that we can end this dispute amicably. The speaker also referred to the good performance of the mayor of Iranshahr and said: It is a few months since our dear brother, Mr. Iran-Nejad, has become the mayor of Iranshahr. His efforts and dedication have attracted the admiration of the nice people of Iranshahr. I thank my dear brother Mr. Hojjati, the honorable governor-general of Sistan va Baluchestan, and his pious colleagues for introducing Mr. Iran-Nejad who has revitalized Iranshahr which had been ruined by the previous mayors. I demand that the ex-mayor of Iranshahr should be tried and punished for his carelessness and laxity in fulfilling his duties as evidenced by the documents which exist in the municipality of Iranshahr.

The deputy from Iran-Shahr added: Sometime ago, I submitted a question to the Majles to be addressed to the minister of health, treatment, and medical education regarding the disorderly conditions of health services in my electoral district. Fortunately, through the efforts of Dr. Jazayeri, the esteemed and able deputy of the Ministry of Health and Treatment, and the good orders of Dr. Fazel, the minister of health and treatment, preparations for solving the problem have been made and therefore I offer my thanks and appreciation for the timely attention of the honorable minister and his esteemed deputy and declare the question answered. The Majles speaker has been informed to convey this to the ministry.

He then supported the work performance of the mayor of Tehran and said: I commend the mayorship of Mr. Karbaschi, the honorable mayor of Tehran, who in a short period of time has rendered very valuable services and whose sincere services have won him the admiration of the people of Tehran. I am grateful to the interior minister and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and hope that they may assist in the repair of the ruined conditions in Tehran and beautification of this great city and that the noble people of Tehran will continue to encourage them and pray for them so that they and their colleagues may be heartened in their work.

In conclusion, the deputy from Iranshahr made some reminders to the minister of education and training and the minister of petroleum.

Nader Kavusi, Deputy from Tuysarkan: The Key to Independence and Self-Sufficiency Is in the Hands of Workers and Farmers

The third pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Kavusi, the representative of the people of Tuysarkan, who at the outset of his speech referred to the universal Labor Day and said: The universal expression of support by the authorities of the country, including the honorable leader [Khamene'i], the honorable president, and the Majles speaker, his holiness Ayatollah Karrubi, for the hard-working and great class of workers during last week's celebration of the Labor Day is a sign of the special attention the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran pays to the noble class of workers. The dear Imam always had an especially favorable view of the workers and farmers, and indeed these two classes provide the force which moves the wheels of the economy and in their hands lie the key to the salvation of the country, freedom from dependency, achievement of self-sufficiency, and economic independence. The active presence of workers and farmers in the production field and on the front-lines of the battlefield during recent years is a sign of their great role and the deep love of these dear ones for the Islamic revolution. To insure the minimum and due rights of workers, it is necessary for the Expediency Discernment Council to act expeditiously and approve the labor laws which are the result of years of efforts by Majles and the Council of Guardians. These laws should be ratified in a way that the due rights of workers are secured so that compensation can be made for the years during which the rights of these hard-working class were weakened. Furthermore, it is necessary to pay attention to the needs of workers regarding education, training, housing, health, insurance, job security, labor organizations, sharing in the ownership of production factories, and their relative welfare. In the same time that we improve the situation of the dedicated workers in the country, and because of the pivotal role of agriculture, it is also necessary to improve the lot of farmers and agricultural workers in the country. After eight years of holy struggle to achieve self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector, we now need fundamental plans and a basic infrastructure especially for the supply of water in any possible way. As council elections are about to start, I hope that, through proper and honest elections, qualified individuals will be elected at all levels as stipulated in the Constitution so that this law may be carried out because until now such councils were not given much attention and this important principle of the Constitution was overlooked. The election of councils will increase the involvement of the people in the execution of affairs and will improve the quality of work.

In reference to combating economic terrorists, the speaker said: Among the current topics of discussion is the decisive confrontation with the profit-thirsty and plunderers of public coffers. The honorable Majles speaker has repeatedly pointed out in his speeches the need for serious confrontation with these parasites of the society, but still these plunderers of the public coffers, such as the Nobovat Foundation, limited partnership companies, and the Saipa company, outside or inside the prison, are comfortably continuing their operations and everything is provided for them. The people have not seen any decisive action on the part of the judicial branch against these economic trouble-makers, and there is no enforcement of the laws for punishing hoarders. The rising cost of living has robbed the people of their security and, of course, it is not only the private sector which causes inflation, but the government itself aggravates the situation by increasing the prices of commodities sold by the government, and this provides an excuse for the profit-thirsty and the economic trouble-makers.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Kavusi referred to the ban by the criminal Saudi family rulers against the Abrahamic pilgrimage [pilgrimage to Mecca] by the Iranian Muslims and said:

The Al Sa'ud regime prevented the pilgrimage of Iranian Muslims at the behest of their masters. This action on the part of reactionaries in the region was to please their American masters. Islamic countries, in honor of the blood of hundreds of pilgrims who were martyred in the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and the 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims who were martyred at the hands of the Saudi rulers, must remove the monopoly of the Saudi family puppets over the administration of that Islamic world center, so that the cries of the oppressed Muslims from all over the world may be raised and heard from there.

The deputy from Tuysarkan pointed out that our main duty is to protect the principles of the revolution and to continue to follow the line of our dear and departed Imam by combating the oppressors. He continued: The heroic nation of Iran once again shut up the calls for the reestablishment of relations with the United States and proved, to both oppressors and oppressed, that the line of the Imam will be followed until the appearance of Mahdi (May God hasten his appearance) and there will be no deviation even for one moment from the main goal because genuineness, holiness, and the health of our revolution depend on these serious and relentless combats against oppressors of the Age and self-aggrandizers who are led by the criminal United States. If we deviate from our just position even slightly, we would not have [the moral authority] to say anything to the oppressed people and Muslims in the world. Haven't those who raise such sinister calls read the will and testament of the martyrs? Have they forgotten the obstacles in the way of our revolution and the calamities inflicted upon our nation which were caused by the United States? Have those who have relations with the United States caused anything except baseness and difficulty? Those who want the United States to be satisfied with us must understand that the United States' satisfaction with us means retreat from revolutionary principles, abandonment of revolutionary values, and betrayal of the blood of thousands of rose-colored shrouded martyrs. Have these people forgotten the voice of the imam which echoes: "For every injustice, shout at America" [hold America responsible]. Those who imagine that relations with the United States brings happiness to us must understand that they are trading away the blood of thousands of martyrs and thousands of innocent children, women, and men who lost their lives due to the bombs dropped by the agents of the United States. How are these people going to answer to God and to our dear Imam? The heroic nation of Iran and the children and students of dear Imam stand fast against the enemies of the revolution and Islam, and for the protection of the high ideals of their Imam, they will withstand every pressure and difficulty as they have done so until now and will never yield to abjectness and will never make peace with any criminal. The anger, aversion, and repulsion of our heroic nation for the United States will not end until, as our dear Imam said, the United States becomes civilized and indeed the United States will never become civilized. The United States, that empty noise-maker, must remain for ever fearful of the Islamic revolution of Iran and must never have peace of mind. If the United States ever becomes civilized, it will be only through the strong hand of revolutionaries and as a result of unity among the Muslims of the world. As the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti said: "America! Be angry with us and die from this anger." O imam! O divine and exalted spirit: Rest in peace. Your revolutionary children shall never allow your path and your struggle to diminish, retrieve, and change into collusion even for one moment. I end my talk with the eternal slogan of the revolutionary and heroic nation of Iran: Death to America and death to Israel.

Rahim-Nejad, Representative of the People of Maku: People Expect Government to Take Fundamental Steps Against High Cost of Living

Mr. Rahim-Nejad was the fourth pre-agenda speaker. He offered praise and greetings to the pure soul of the departed Imam of the nation, the honorable Leader of Revolution, and the martyrs of the revolution. He wished success for the government of Mr. Hashemi and thanked Mr. Gharazi, the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, regarding work on the communication affairs of Maku and the people of his electoral district.

With regard to inflation and the high cost of living, he said: Inflation and the high cost of living have consumed the ability of the deprived and hard-working class to live and have made life impossible for the third class in the society, especially those with large families. All the people expect Mr. Hashemi's government to find a solution and stabilize the prices by confronting the economic terrorists and the self-aggrandizers, and surely the people would support him in this regard.

He referred to the utilization of the Basij [mobilized] forces and said: The same Basij forces who fought for eight years during the war are ready to cooperate in confronting profiteers and self-aggrandizers so that prices may become stabilized. The people can not tolerate limitless inflation and the high cost of living.

He then referred to the problems of his electoral district and invited the attention of the authorities to the following:

1. Maku is one of the large towns. In West Azerbaijan province, it ranks among the towns with the highest number of rural areas. It has rich resources, but is still deprived and has no factories although there are raw materials needed for paper, cement, gypsum, and other factories.
2. Despite the passage of 11 years from the glorious Islamic revolution, there are still no water lines, health services, roads, electricity, and schools in most rural areas.
3. The town of Maku and its suburbs have a population of 200,000, but there are no maternity hospitals and specialists and consequently tens of people die every year.
4. The farmers in Maku are besieged by all types of problems. Twenty liters of kerosene and seven tins of chemical fertilizer will not solve all the problems of the farmers in the region and there is a need for fundamental action.
5. The new housing and urban programs have caused dissatisfaction among the people in Maku and one example is the move to cancel the building permits based on promises of reconstruction. I ask the minister of housing and urban development how are they going to reconstruct Maku when they still don't have the resources to reconstruct the war-ravaged areas?
6. Regarding the redistricting of the country, I remind the interior minister of the petitions and telegrams sent about the annexation of part of Siahcheshmeh division.
7. The construction of a 96-bed hospital, which is supposed to be built in Maku by the Social Security Administration, should be expedited so that the health services problem may be solved.
8. In reference to the petitions which have been sent, the necessary action should be taken with regard to construction of a connecting bridge with the neighboring country of the Soviet Union.
9. The creation of common markets along the borders with Turkey and the Soviet Union would not only solve the problem of unemployment, but it will also prevent smuggling and will have a positive impact on prices.
10. Permits should be issued by the honorable authorities of the province to the deprived yet qualified street vendors in the region.
11. The honorable minister of roads and transport should give instructions to the authorities for the completion of the roads in Siahcheshmeh, Poldasht, etc.
12. The road in Siahcheshmeh division is impassable due to the far distance from Maku, the intense cold weather, and the long and difficult winters, and as a result the sick and the pregnant can not travel and most of those who travel die on the way. Construction of a road in the deprived area of Siahcheshmeh has special importance and will solve the problems in the area.
13. I remind the minister of health, treatment and medical education about the supply of drinking water in one of the divisions in the district.
14. Siahcheshmeh has a long record of combat in the Chalderan battle and has all the qualifications for becoming a township. Therefore, I request that the necessary action should be taken in this regard.

Shahr-e Kord Representative Asks for Clarification of the Status of Government Administration in His District

The fifth and last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Mohammad Ra'isi, the deputy from Shahr-e Kord, who at the outset of his speech said: The deprived regions have problems that make one wonder how to solve them. Today I address my comments to the honorable president, our dear and sympathetic brother Mr. Hashemi, whom I know is affectionate and hope that he would instruct the authorities to look into the problems I mention today. Send a team of experts and I pledge myself that if they arrive at any conclusion other than what I mention today, I would personally use this same tribune to read their report.

He added: Our problem is that the government administration in our district is dependant upon Esfahan province. During the last few years, some of our agencies have become independent. Come and look into some of the banks, petroleum [establishments], the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self- Sacrificing Devotees, information offices, and judicial establishment which have become independent, and you will find out that the affairs of a small town can not be managed in a provincial capital. Our Ministry of Justice has problems. The Foundation for the Oppressed is now independent and has a good amount of wealth, but Esfahan province used to draw from that wealth. The Water and Electricity Authority, the Bureau of Registrations, and some banks are not independent yet. We have problems with the Water and Electricity Authority as well as the Ministry of Energy. We have spoken to Mr. Zanganeh a few times and once, in the presence of representatives of the province, Mr. Zanganeh was convinced to provide power to the provincial administrators but, unfortunately, for reasons which I do not know, he was prevented from doing so. I will provide a few examples and you judge for yourself and decide what we should tell the people.

For four years, some of the honorable families of martyrs, among whom are families whose father was a martyr and who gave two martyrs, have been trying to get permits to dig water wells. I secured letters of recommendation from Mr. Karrubi—the honorable Majles speaker and the representative of the supreme leader, the Friday imam, and I wrote two letters myself, all to no avail. Last week when I was there for a visit, the father of three martyrs asked me for advice on what he should do. I am puzzled. Do they [the authorities] entertain enmity towards the people? Do they entertain enmity towards the system? They should know our people. This man has sacrificed three of his children. If he sacrifices the rest of his children, still the system would not compensate him. Why do government offices treat people this way?

He added: We see the problem in the fact that our administrator does not have any authority. If our province is really a province, we need an administrator who has authority, and if our province is a governorship within the province of Esfahan, let us know so that we may take our problem to the governor-general of Esfahan. Last week again I visited a few areas together with the governor and some other authorities. Someone asked me why there isn't a single electric bulb lighting our streets? The governor responded that there are very few bulbs. The same person said again: Then how is it that in Esfahan, the nighttime is as bright as the daytime? What am I supposed to say to the people? Our community is small and the people come to us with their problems and we need to have answers.

Mr. Ra'isi added: Another issue is the trip made by the honorable minister of education and training. The staff of the General Office of Education complain that the minister should have at least met with them during his visit because they were prepared for this meeting and had made banners.

He requested from Mr. Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs, on behalf of the families of the hard-working workers of Shahr-e Kord and the Labor Office, to commend Mr. Mir-Arab, the general manager of labor and social affairs in the province.

In conclusion, the deputy from Shahr-e Kord said: My last request is from the authorities of the Interior Ministry, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, the honorable president, the Supreme Leader, and all others who are presently in charge of the administration of the revolution to confront the newspapers which have no mission except causing division and disputes in the society. Unfortunately we are witnessing the publication of materials which are not good for anyone. Mr. Ghaffari, the good son of martyred Ghaffari, is known very well by the people in Iran. If there is any problem with anyone, we have a judicial system to refer to. No one would benefit from publicizing such problems in newspapers and therefore causing a commotion in the society. Let us look back to the years 1357, 1358, and 1359 [21 March 1978-20 March 1981] and we would know who stood against the hypocrites and the anti-revolutionaries. The Hezbollah in Tehran and the Hezbollah in Iran know the revolutionary figures very well. Such issues will not benefit anyone. If there is really a problem anticipated in the future elections, there is a better way to address it. If anyone has a dispute, he should go to the judicial system.

Nepal

King Welcomes Agreement With India

BK1506033490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] King Birendra has welcomed the agreement reached between the prime ministers of India and Nepal. He conveyed his happiness to the Indian ambassador, Lieutenant General S.K. Sinha, when he called on him in Kathmandu. The king told the Indian ambassador that but for the great efforts he had put in, this happy development might not have taken place.

Pakistan

Army Chief Says War Readiness Best Deterrence

BK1906032890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said total readiness for war is the most effective deterrence which must be achieved through constant hard work and devotion to the profession of the Army. The Army chief was addressing troops after visiting them in the exercise area near Muzaffargarh.

General Beg said the Pakistan Army had brought about important changes in the concept and strategy in order to strengthen its capability and power. He stressed that the troops should attain total confidence in the abilities of their weapons by constant training and hard work.

The chief of the Army Staff visited corps and divisional headquarters where he was briefed on professional matters.

Paper Says U.S. Keeps Nation on 'Short Leash'

BK1706083590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid and Leverage"]

[Text] In what amounts to clearing a major hurdle with regard to US aid for Pakistan, the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations has extended the waiver from the Symington Amendment by one year. The waiver—from 1 April 1991, to 1 April 1992—is an essential if Pakistan is to receive the 578 million dollars recommended by the US administration to Congress for the year 1991 as part of the 6-year package of 4.02 billion dollars in military and economic assistance initiated in 1987. It should be noted, however, that the waiver has been granted, in line with past practice, for one year only. Clearly the objective is to keep Pakistan on a short leash. Otherwise, it was entirely possible to extend such a waiver through 1993, the year marking the conclusion of the aid package. In any case it is a bit strange to see the Symington Amendment, ostensibly aimed at preventing nuclear proliferation, applied to Pakistan and not to countries like Israel, for instance.

Another interacting and interesting aspect of the Committee's decisions is that funds have not been earmarked for Pakistan, thus providing the administration with the ability to alter the flow of aid on a short term basis. This is particularly significant in view of the current state of tension between Pakistan and India. More so when seen in the context of the recent visit of the high powered delegation led by Robert Gates, the US Deputy National Security Adviser, which had apparently threatened an aid cut off in case of a war between Pakistan and India.

Given the nature and extent of our dependence on foreign aid, there can be no denying that the US is in a position to exercise tremendous leverage on Pakistan at a time when—given the very real threat on our borders—the last thing we need is to have our security undermined by 'friends'. Unfortunately, however, such is the stuff that our history is made of.

As the 1991 US aid package for Pakistan moves through its various stages towards final approval by the Congress, to be then disbursed at its discretion by the administration, Pakistan will find itself under increasing pressure to toe the US line with respect to matters that impinge crucially on our national interest on pain of being summarily cut off from economic and military assistance. The government, then, would be well advised to start working on its rather limited options as of now and attempt devising a coherent strategy to meet the tough times ahead.

ECO Ministerial Meeting Upgrades Organization

BK1906041290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] in Islamabad yesterday decided to upgrade the organization to the full ministerial level in order to obtain desired objectives. The meeting also approved appropriate amendments to the 1977 Treaty of Izmir to reinvigorate the ECO and make it more effective. A council of ministers comprising the ministers of foreign affairs or any other representative of full ministerial rank has been established as the highest policy-making organ of the ECO. The meeting took decision to revitalize and expand the area of cooperation among the three member states. It established six committees for this purpose. These include the committee for economic and commercial cooperation; the committee for cooperation in the fields of transportation and communications; the committee for technical and industrial cooperation; the committee for agricultural cooperation; the committee for education, scientific, and cultural cooperation; and the committee for cooperation in the fields of energy, infrastructure, and public works.

The representatives of the three countries spoke about the importance their governments attach to the objectives of the ECO as an important framework for further strengthening cooperation in different fields. They expressed the confidence that in the coming years the ECO will emerge as an organization that will fulfill the aspirations of the 200 million people of the three brotherly countries. The regional cooperation under the ECO will open new avenues of opportunities in the way of further growth and development leading the three nations to greater progress and prosperity.

Presided over by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the Iranian delegation at the meeting was led by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and that of Turkey by the state minister for economic affairs, Mr. Isin Celibi.

Iran Calls for ECO Gas Trunk Line

LD1806170890 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 18, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister called for a gas trunkline to link member states, at the first foreign ministerial session of the 3-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which started here today. 'Ali Akbar Velayati suggested the setting up of an energy committee for electricity, gas and oil, and noting the deepening ties between Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, hoped ECO could play a wider role in the region. He also proposed a higher budget for the organisation to enable its secretariat to establish research centers and expand activities.

Iranian diplomat 'Ali Reza Salari is the present secretary-general of the ECO.

In their inaugural remarks, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Isin Celebi joined Velayati in terming the session "important" and called for further strengthening of Tehran-Islamabad-Ankara ties.

Yaqub Khan expressed hope that the meeting would be effective for expansion of relations to the benefit of the combined population of the three countries, which stands at over 200 million. "We consider the Izmir agreement a bright spot in trilateral cooperation, but fruitful results were not achieved at the expected level despite the joint political viewpoints of the member states," he said.

Turkey's Celebi said that his country always attached importance to economic relations with Iran and Pakistan, and believed that recent economic developments in the world warrant further regions cooperation. ECO can help expansion of ties in commercial, banking, insurance, transport, telecommunications, energy, agricultural, industial and scientific areas, and that ministerial meetings can play a major role in this regard, Celebi said.

Meeting Ends 18 Jun

TA1806183990 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The Economic Cooperation Organization's ministerial meeting among Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan has been held in Islamabad. State Minister Isin Celebi represented Turkey at the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Celebi stressed the importance Turkey attaches to increasing the economic cooperation among the three countries. A protocol to revitalize the organization and encourage joint investments was signed at the end of the meeting.

Celebi was also received by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He gave Bhutto messages from President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut. He also briefed Bhutto on joint projects. Bhutto said that Pakistan wants to cooperate more closely with Turkey in all fields.

Iranian Minister Meets President

LD1906115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Our country's foreign minister, who is in Pakistan at the head of a political-economic delegation, met the Pakistani president today to discuss the recent ECO session and the issue of Afghanistan. We begin the hour's foreign news with our colleague's report from Islambad in this connection:

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who has gone to Pakistan at the head of a political-economic delegation, met Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Pakistani president, before noon today to discuss bilateral ties, the recent ECO session, and Afghan issues.

In the meeting, Mr. Velayati presented a report about the ECO ministerial session and about the efforts of members countries to expand ties, and he declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to expand and increase cooperation with the ECO.

Mr. Ishaq Khan, the Pakistani president, for his part, expressed gratitude in the meeting for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to advance the affairs of Muslim countries and the third world and, referring to the issue of Afghanistan, he said: We accept many of your views about the peaceful resolution of the Afghan issue, especially with regard to that country's future elections; and, just like you, we want the issue to be resolved peacefully for the benefit of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Ishaq Khan added: We, too, respect full rights for women in Afghanistan's society as you do, and we belive that they, too, must take part in Afghanistan;s future elections.

The meeting continued with our country's foreign minister speaking about some of the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to unite Afghan mojahedin groups. He said: Fortunately, our efforts in that regard yielded good results and, with the unity of Shi'ite groups based in Iran following the formation of the Islamic Unity Party [recently formed group replacing the coalition council based in Iran], with the trip to Tehran of independent groups based in Peshawar and also of Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Jami'yat-e Eslami Party and representative of the six-party [as heard] alliance of Afghan mojahedin resident in Peshawar, all this had made us more hopeful than before that the Afghan mojahedin will be able to reach agreement about finalizing the plan for Afghanistan's future elections. Toward that end, representatives of the islamic Unity Party have travelled to Pakistan after numerous invitations from mojahedin resident in Peshawar and during the next few days they will hold talks in that connection.

At the end of the meeting, which lasted a long time, the Pakistan President also spoke of his forthcoming trip to Iran. He expressed the hope that he will soon visit Islamic Iran and will meet and confer with our country's high-ranking officials.

Antinarcotics Team Seizes 2600 Kg of Charas

BK1006113390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 June 90 p 7

[Text] Karachi—The Sindh Excise Police in a successful haul seized 2600 kilogram [of charas] worth Rs. 2.6 crore from a loaded truck here on Saturday [9 June].

According to official sources here the raid was conducted by a special anti-narcotics team of excise police under the directives of Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The anti-narcotics team headed by Malik Mohammad Hayat, Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer, intercepted Truck No. BUA 3393 near Sohrab Goth as it arrived from Peshawar to deliver the consignment.

On thorough search, the excise police found the charas packets concealed under the chassis of the truck. The police have taken the truck-driver Umer Daraz son of Saeed Khan, a resident of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], into custody.

MSA Seizes 11 Tons of Hashish Off Makran Coast

BK1006161890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] In a major operation off the Makran coast, the Maritime Security Agency [MSA] has seized over 11 tons of hashish aboard a mechanized launch south of Ormara. The drug was being smuggled abroad. During the operation one smuggler was killed and 19 others arrested. The agency also recovered a rocket launcher, three Kalashnikov rifles and other arms and ammunition.

Sri Lanka

Government Troops Take Key Port, Other Areas

BK1806165890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 18 (AFP)—Sri Lankan troops Monday [18 June] seized a key port town held by Tamil rebels and were advancing elsewhere on the second day of heavy fighting in the island's Northeast, defence officials said. The troops secured Trincomalee town, 257 kilometres east of here, and were seeking out armed guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the area, a government statement here said. Trincomalee is the headquarters of the northeastern province, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, where Indian troops unsuccessfully battled for more than two years to disarm the LTTE until they were withdrawn in March.

Security forces were also advancing in the neighbouring districts of Batticaloa and Ampara, the statement said, adding that the Batticaloa town was "expected to be secured early."

The advances came as Colombo declared war on the LTTE, the dominant Tamil guerrilla group in Sri Lanka, where conflict between troops and rebels has reportedly left nearly 900 people dead since June 11.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament Monday that security forces had killed some 600 guerrillas in the past three days, and vowed to crush the LTTE. "I will go all out for the LTTE," he said, amid thunderous applause from both opposition and ruling party MPs. "The LTTE has over-reached itself ... they will have to die in this country."

In a statement received here from Paris, the LTTE accused the Sri Lankan forces of launching "massive offensive operations" in the East with the help of artillery and aerial support.

A military spokesman said Air Force planes bombed rebel positions to relieve a strategically located army camp at Kiran in Batticaloa after the LTTE rained mortars and "chemical bombs" on it. The chemical bombs, described as poison gas by the spokesman, caused "severe physical irritation" but no deaths, he said.

The LTTE also alleged aerial attacks and strafing from helicopter gunships in jungle-infested Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts in the North as well as in Ampara and Trincomalee in the East. The allegations could not be independently verified.

"It is now clear that the Sri Lankan Government is determined to seek a military solution to the ethnic conflict," the LTTE statement added, referring to the group's campaign for an independent Tamil state called Eelam.

Heavy fighting was also reportedly raging elsewhere in the Northeast where hundreds of heavily armed LTTE guerrillas, many in their teens, were taking on troops and elite para-military commandos. The government has given field commanders in the northeastern province unlimited powers to crush the LTTE, with which it had been holding peace talks since April 1989, the military spokesman said. "They (commanders) have been authorised to do what they want depending on the situation," he said. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation quoted defence officials as saying the commanders "have also been given powers to plan counterattacks in troubled areas."

The state-run DAILY OBSERVER said negotiations with the LTTE had failed, adding "it's all out war."

In the coastal town of Batticaloa, about 300 kilometres from here, LTTE rebels and civilians were retreating in the face of advancing troops, defence and Tamil sources here said. LTTE militants had set fire to Batticaloa's main police station, the defence spokesman said.

Some 80 army soldiers have died in the fighting, including 40 commandos killed by the LTTE in Trincomalee Sunday [17 June], a day after a cease-fire collapsed in under 24 hours. The defence spokesman said at least 175 Tamil guerrillas had been killed, while a minister was quoted as saying here Monday that more than 100 civilians had died in Ampara district alone.

The LTTE is trying to keep army reinforcements from reaching Tamil areas. The fighting has crippled life in the Northeast, where hundreds of Tamils have taken refuge in temples and churches.

Emergency Extended, Fighting Continues 19 Jun

BK1906030990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the emergency has been extended by another month amidst the continued fighting in the Northeast. Moving the motion in Parliament yesterday, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, said the government is determined to crush the militants in the northeast. He said already 600 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres have been killed during the past eight days, while the losses to the security forces were minimum. Mr. Wijeratne declared that the government will not make any more attempt to negotiate with the LTTE.

Meanwhile, the People's Front of Liberation Tigers, the political outfit of the LTTE has held the Sri Lankan Government responsible for violating the cease-fire. In a press release, the party has accused the Sri Lankan Government of killing civilians, resorting to aerial bombing and setting fire to houses in Tamil areas.

Police Seize Heroin From Tamils in Colombo

BK1706121590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The Sri Lanka police made their biggest haul of heroin last week when they seized five kilograms of pure heroin from the possession of two young Tamil men at Slave Island in Colombo. Police told LANKAPUVATH the seizure was made by detectives of the police narcotics bureau and that preliminary investigations revealed the two men were from Trincomalee and Jaffna in the Northeast.

The narcotics bureau is also probing a possible link between last week's seizure of five kilograms and the earlier detection of three kilograms in the possession of a Tamil woman at a lodging house in Katanahena. [Words indistinct] both came from the same (?store). Police say the investigations pointed to both consignments being smuggled across Palk Strait from the South Indian coast.